



**Milwaukee County Executive
Community Input Sessions for the 2017 County Budget**

Final Report

September 2016

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Executive Summary

This report represents quantitative and qualitative survey data, and qualitative participant feedback, gathered during the County Executive Input Groups for the 2017 Milwaukee County Budget. Sessions were held on August 8, 2016 at Wilson Park Senior Center and on August 10, 2016 at Washington Park Senior Center. 123 total participants attended these sessions. A total of 105 participant surveys were collected (33 from session 1, 72 from session 2). The first session had 10 circles of participants and the second session had 12 circles of participants whose input was captured by facilitators.

In order to solicit more meaningful community feedback and discussion, the County Executive Office partnered with the Zeidler Center for Public Discussion, a Milwaukee-based non-profit, to introduce a new format. Unlike traditional budget hearings that offer 3 minutes per speaker in a large group format, Zeidler-facilitated small groups significantly increased the time available to each participant (10-15 minutes) to provide detailed feedback recorded on facilitator notes and participant surveys. Participants were given the opportunity to provide public testimony through three structured go-arounds followed by open conversation.

Professional Zeidler facilitators in each input group recorded detailed, anonymous notes of each participant's public testimony. Facilitators also provided structured timekeeping so each participant had an equal amount of time to share, and reminded participants of some general communication agreements, as needed.

In order to encourage meaningful feedback in the input groups, the following basic communication agreements were used:

1. We will speak for ourselves, from our personal experiences.
2. We will share airtime and not interrupt or criticize others' opinions.
3. We will "pass" or "pass for now" if we're not ready to respond to a question.
4. If asked to keep something confidential, we will honor that request.

The Zeidler Center is pleased to partner with the County Executive Office to serve the Milwaukee community.

Questions about this report should be directed to:

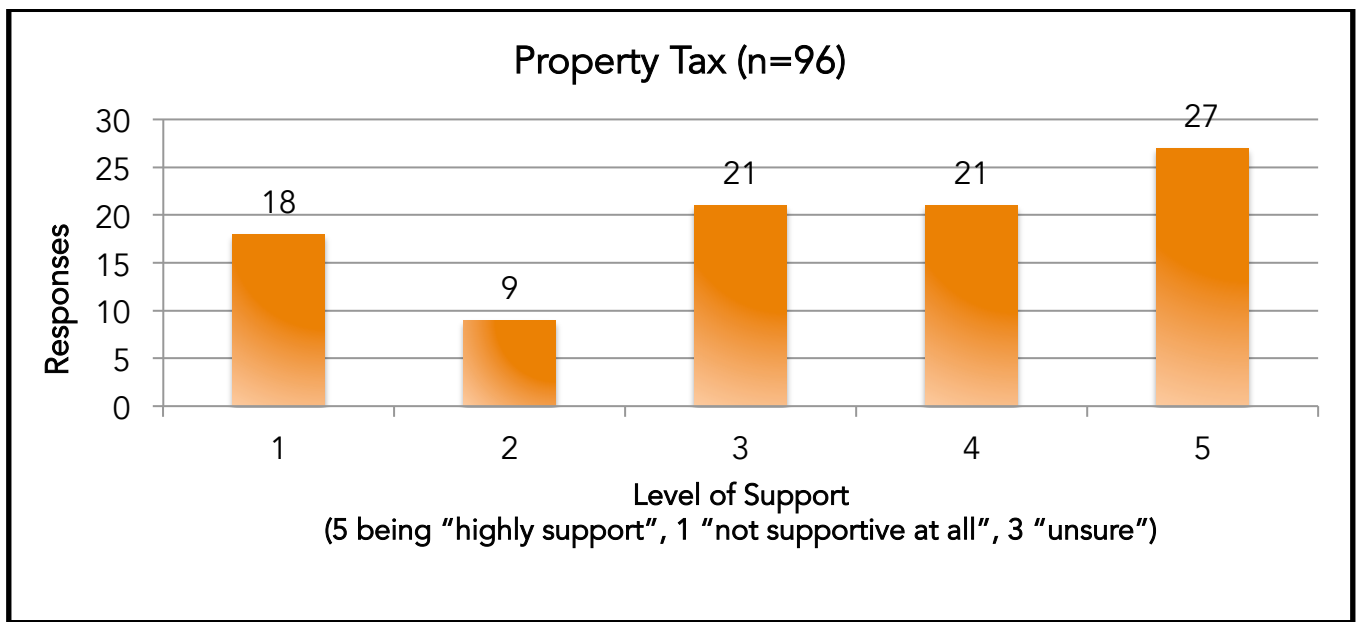
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Survey Results

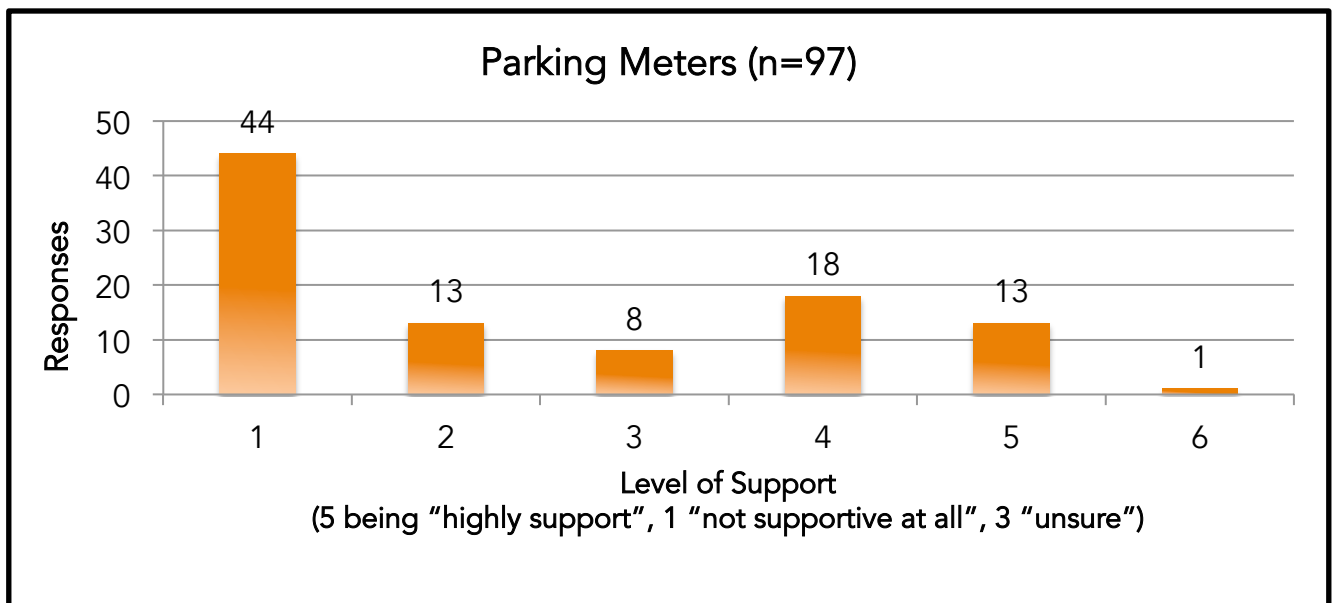
Public Support Charts

Participants were asked to state their level of support of six new revenue options, ranking each option 1-5 with 5 being "highly support", 1 "not supportive at all", and 3 "unsure." Below are charts representing participant rating for each revenue option.

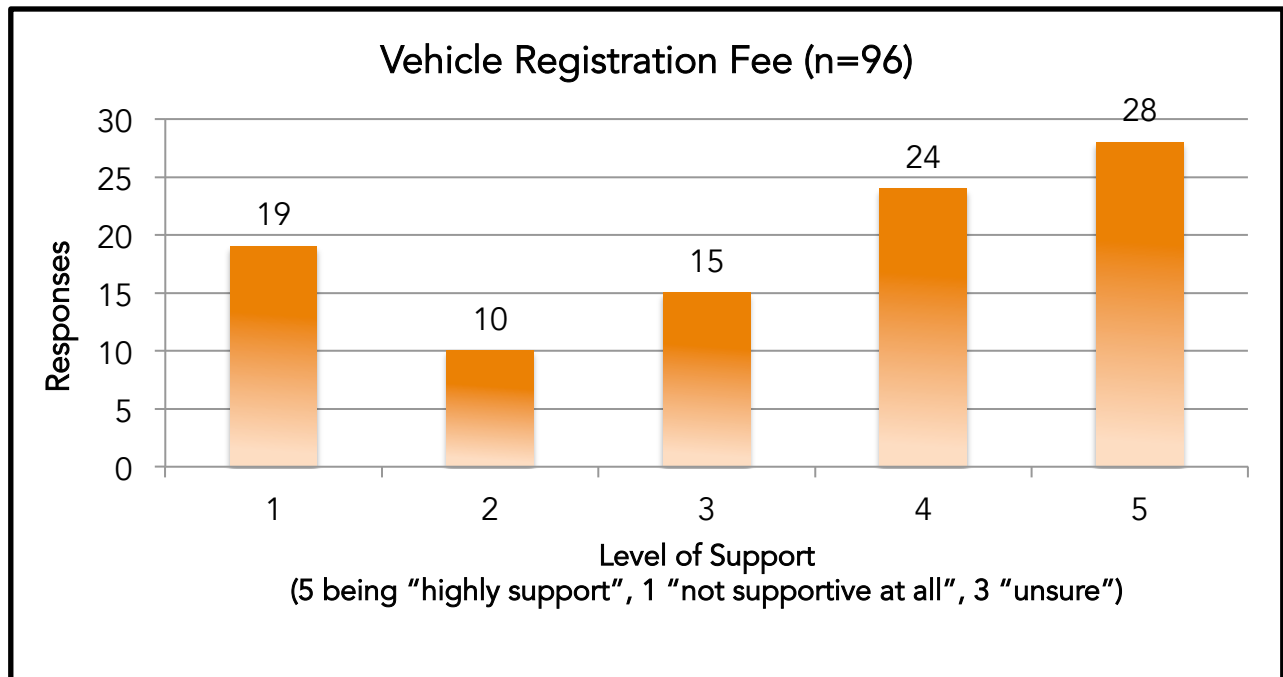
Increase property taxes, if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parks and County highways.



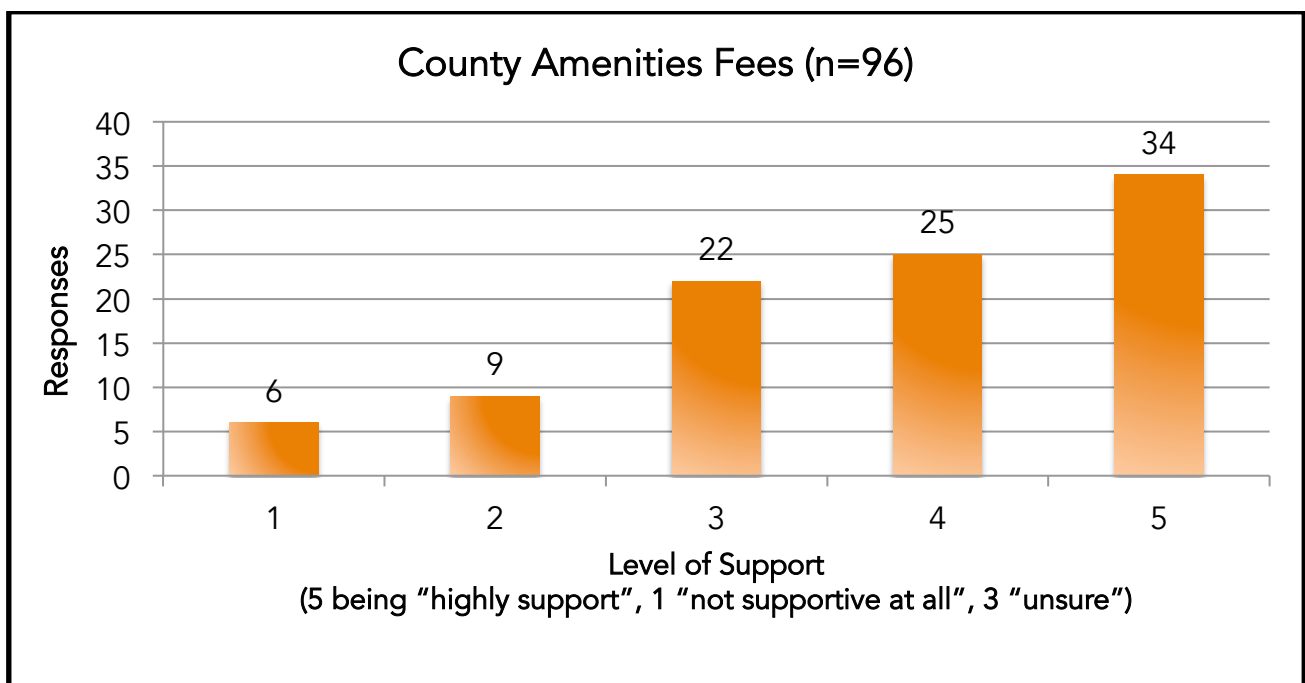
New: Parking meters along the lakefront, if the money collected is used to maintain the Cty Parks



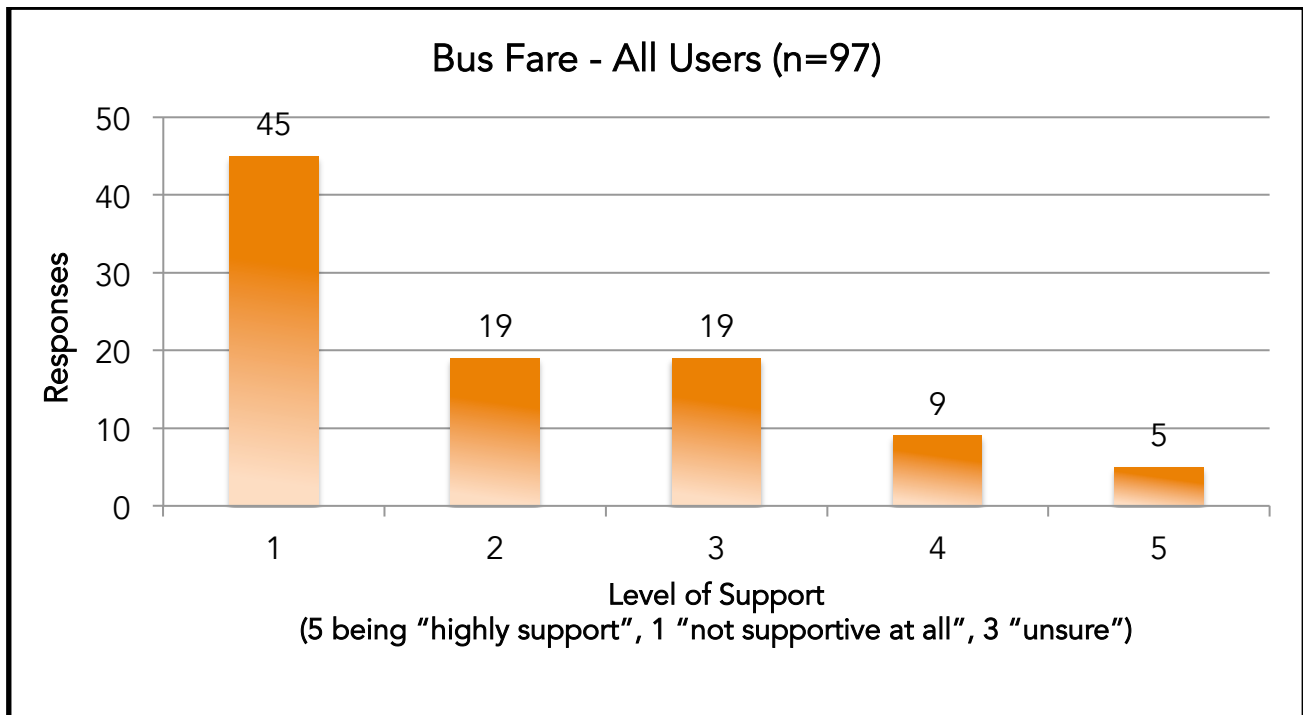
New: Vehicle registration fee (in the range of \$20-\$50 for purchased vehicle), if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parkways and County highways.



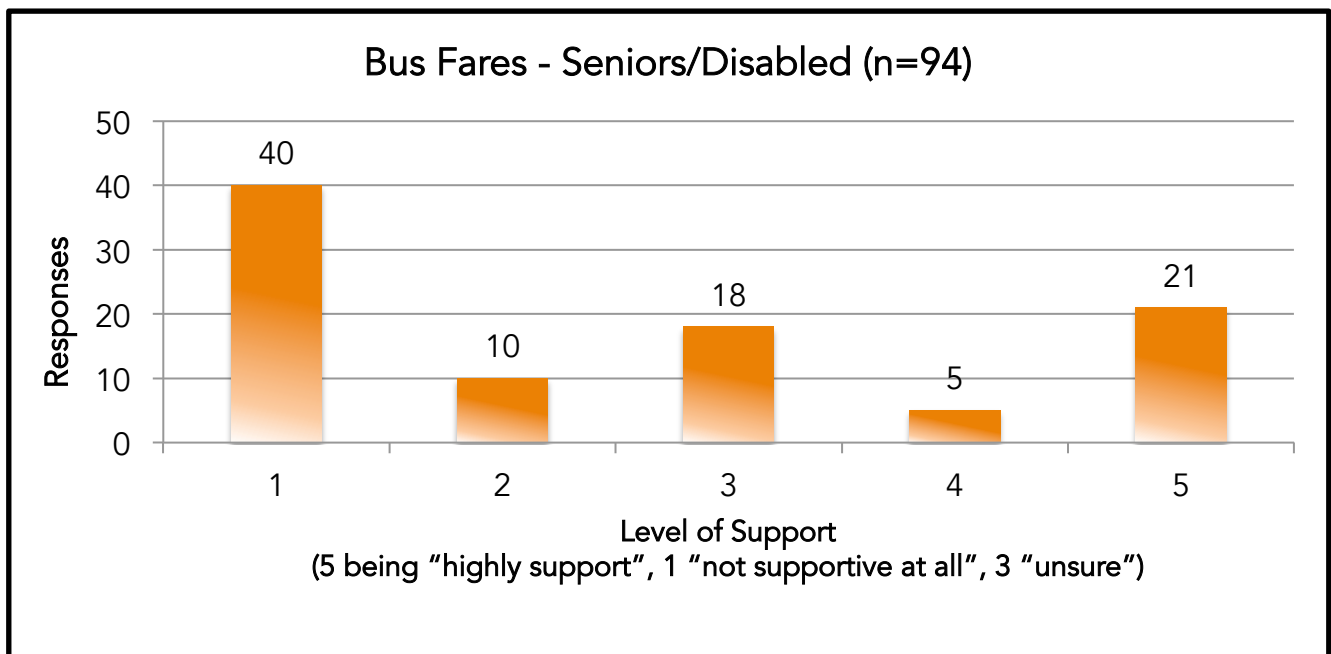
Increase fees for certain County Park amenities, such as golf course fees, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks.



Increase bus fares for all bus users (currently \$2.25 per ride – increase to \$2.50 per ride), if the money collected is used to support the bus system.

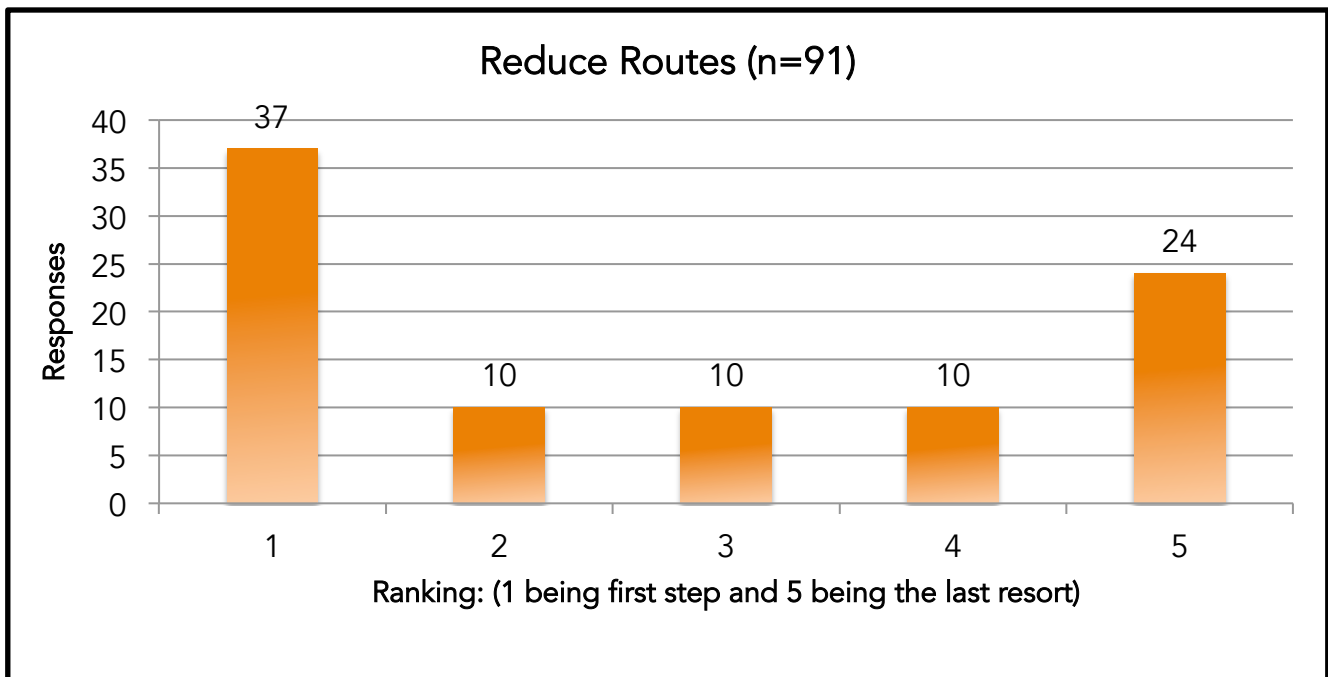
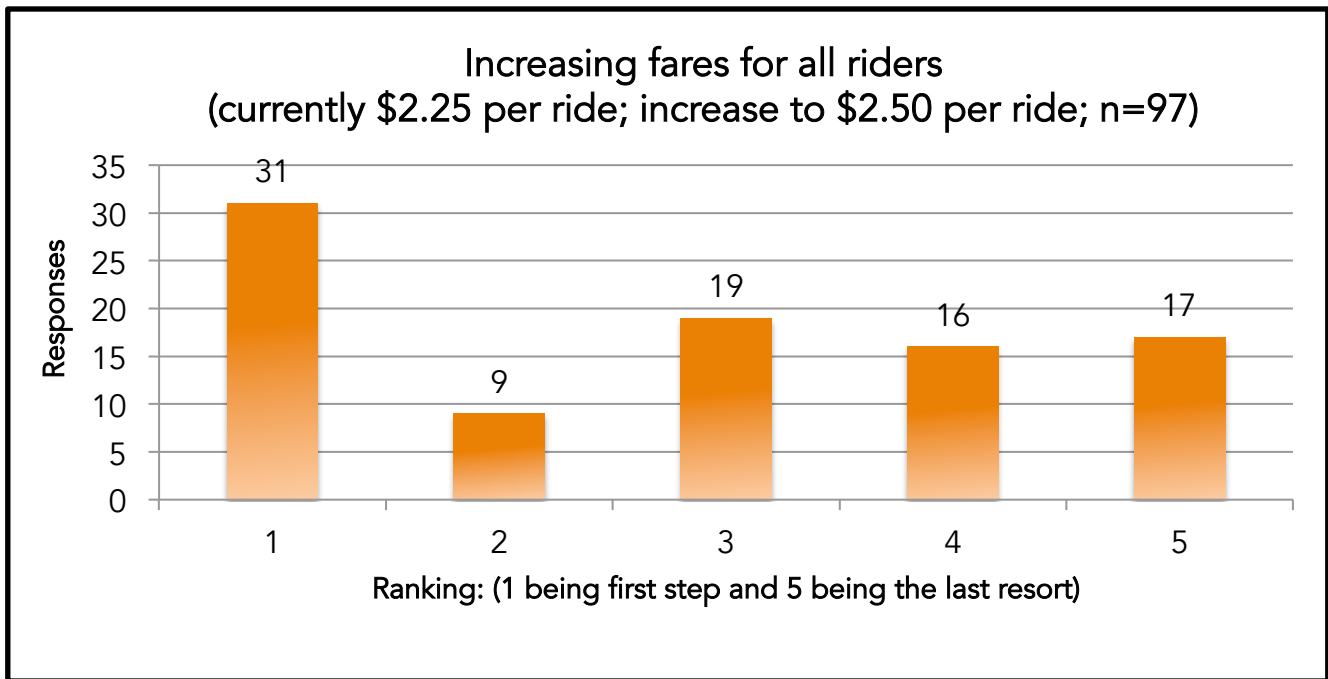


Adjust bus fares for seniors and persons with disabilities to \$1.10 per ride (currently free), if the money collected is used to support the bus system.

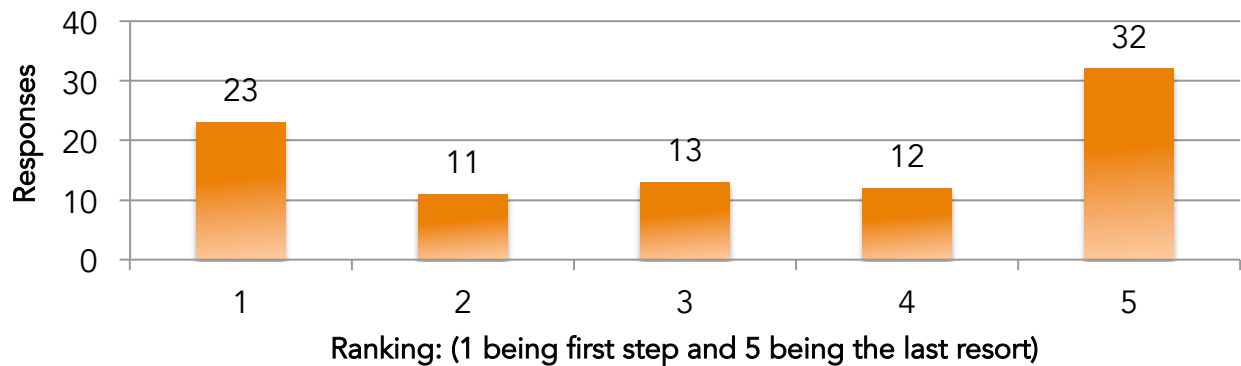


Public Priorities Charts

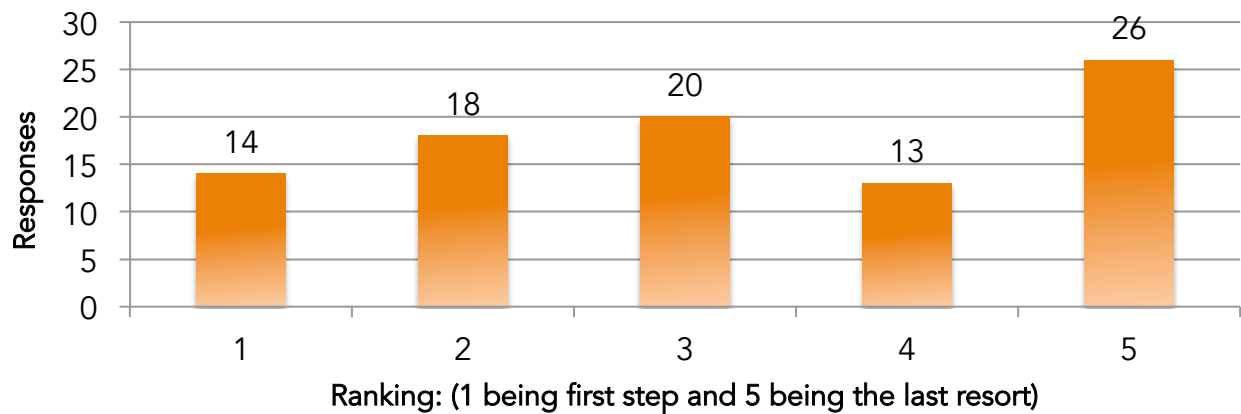
Participants were asked to answer a key question: "The transit system budget is short \$7 million. How would you like to see the County fill this revenue shortfall?" The charts below are the revenue options that participants ranked by level of priority with 1 being the first step and 5 being the last resort.



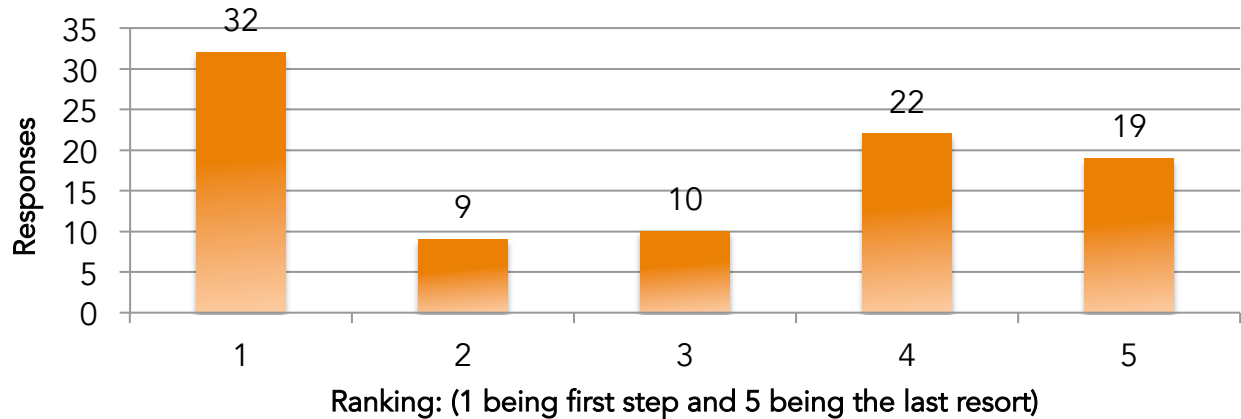
Charge half fares for elderly and disabled
(currently free – increase to \$1.10 per ride, n=91)



Increase Property Taxes (n=91)



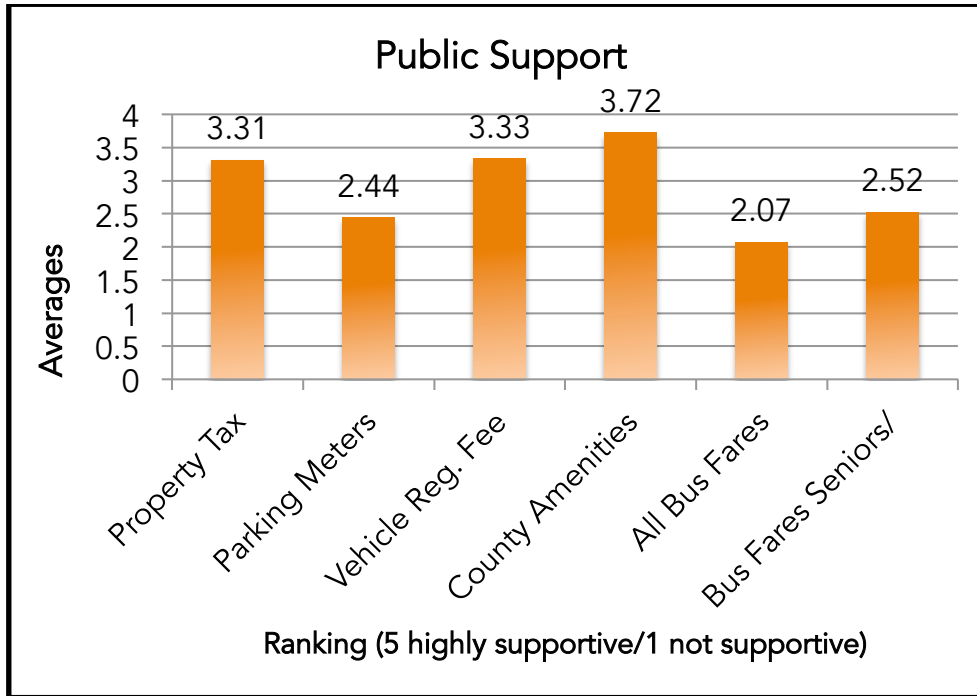
Increasing Vehicle Registration Fee (n=92)



Survey Averages

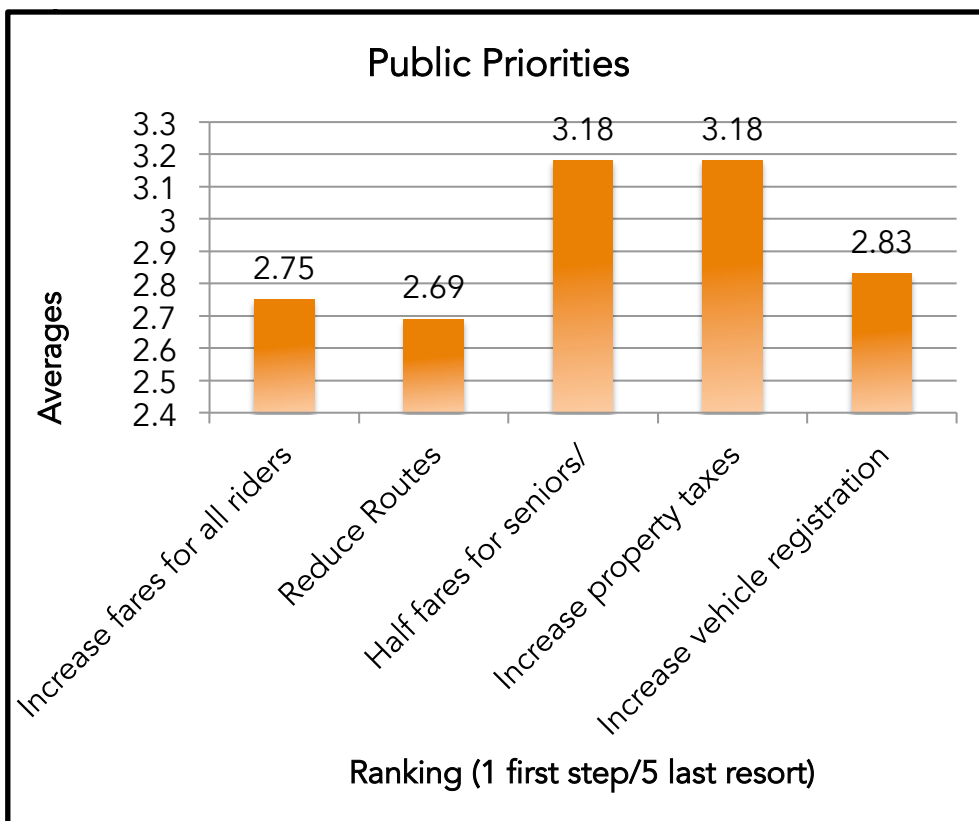
The averages of the above responses are listed below on Charts 1.1 and 1.2.

Chart 1.1



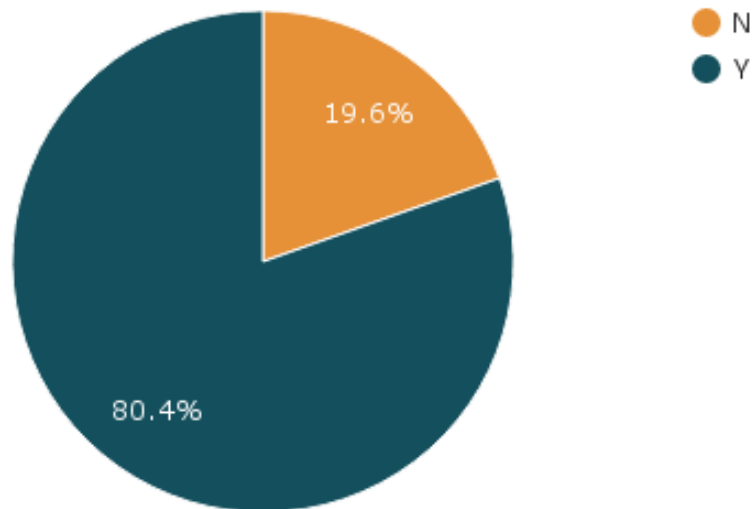
Public Support (5 highly supportive/1 not supportive)	Averages
Property Tax	3.31
Parking Meters	2.44
Vehicle Reg. Fee	3.33
County Amenities	3.72
All Bus Fares	2.07
Bus Fares Seniors/Disabled	2.52

Chart 1.2



Public Priorities (1 first step/5 last resort)	Averages
Increase fares for all riders	2.75
Reduce Routes	2.69
Half fares for seniors/disabled	3.18
Increase property taxes	3.18
Increase vehicle registration fee	2.83

Did this meeting give you a better understanding of the County's budget challenges?



Listening Circle Participant Responses

Bullet points listed below indicate individual participant responses. They have been grouped by theme.

Round 1 Question “Talk about a personal experience that has affected or influenced your priorities related to County services.”

Responses:

Parks & Recreation

- I support the parks and recreation.
- I love using the parks.
- I interacted often with County staff while working for the DRN. I have high regard for the parks, especially along waterways. I’ve seen how they’ve changed over time (depreciated). I find the processes for determining budgets and policies draconian.
- I’m in a Milwaukee County Park 3-5 days per week. The parks help keep our lives more active... hiking, biking, walking. The parks make community events happen (e.g. Humboldt Park concerts, beer gardens)
- I’m a big user of our park system. Our parks are gems and we should be proud of them. I feel though that they are suffering from benign neglect and I’m concerned about the state of our parks. I worry about the degradation of the natural environment in our parks. I don’t see a bunch of foresight in planning, just emergency management. We need to spend our money more wisely and need new sources of funding.
- I clearly agree with everything else that’s been said. Our parks need more maintenance, they need to be a priority.
- Our parks system has received recognition and awards
- I think the parks are important need, to give access to nature without having to go up north. Parks provide exercise and good birdwatching for seniors.
- I’ve lived in Milwaukee my whole life, except for a few years. I’m a big user of the parks, and currently live near Lincoln Park.
- I grew up near Dineen Park. I have many lakefront memories from childhood.
- I can understand personally the value that parks bring.
- My concern is the parks. Pools are lacking on the north side, and they used to offer an outlet. Youth need opportunities for expression if we’re serious about reducing crime. We need more park services. Also, the last time I was in a senior center (McGovern), it wasn’t air conditioned. I’m wondering – are they all, or is it only certain ones in certain areas?
- I live near Moody Park and spend a lot of time with children’s groups there. We’re having various maintenance issues and having a hard time getting what we need from County services. This means we’re not able to use the space as it was intended.

- I've always thought that our Park system is a jewel - the best in the country. It makes living in Milwaukee County special. I live near Grant and Warnimount Park and would like to see renewed focus on the Parks - I don't care about the golf course.
- I use the Oak Leaf Trail starting @ Estabrook Park and to the north. Being in there and seeing how well-used it is is a positive experience.
- My experience has been with the community gardens and our parks system. It helps everyone feel a part of the community and want to get to know each other.
- I would be ok with paying more in taxes than cutting parks and recreation or adding a fee for parking or increasing usage fees.
- I would pay more taxes to save our parks, gardens and transit services for elderly and disabled.
- They've put a retaining pond in Lincoln Park. Those used to be park areas. Is that related to the dam?
- They're not retaining ponds. They allowed another path to reduce flooding.
- I'm amazed at the great job the parks department does with a low budget. The extension of the Estabrook trail to Lincoln Park is a big deal. It's the most marvelous thing - diverse people of all ages come through. And, it was a low-cost thing to do. That's a tribute to the county.
- I enjoy park system a lot—it's an important resource. The parks are why I'm here. I'm concerned about the County budget for the parks; this is one of the things that everyone can enjoy. As a former employee at MATC I can see that the County does do good things. I'm not opposed to paying for things—we all pay for the things we want and need. I know and believe the services should be paid for.
- I'm part of the committee that was the responsible for the upkeep of the parks that historically everyone uses. When looking at a gap it's incredible the amount everyday people have to pay while rich people don't want to pay. But how do we keep up the parks or fees. I'm not in favor of meters. One way to capture money is from people who don't live in the County—it's only a limited way. This is a limited list of alternatives open. I'm in the company of not wanting to increase taxes but things are left unattended.
- I've been in Milwaukee 41 years—one of the things I was impressed with is the state of our parks. Forty years ago they were in better shape than now. I live on east side it's been abandoned by the County. By the 80s the parks became home to the homeless folks and dog walkers. It's not safe, not pretty, and fortunately people around Riverside had resources to put money into it BUT other communities around Milwaukee don't have these resources. The parks need to be kept up for children; when this happens neighborhoods will improve and property values increase. If they are allowed to deteriorate the neighborhoods go down and people of color and disabled can't get what they need.
- I like a lot of exercise in parks. I like Milwaukee County. There's a lot of maintenance needed in Menomonee Falls due to lot of foot traffic, a lot of bridges, and stones falling off the bridge—they need a lot of repair. I hate to see tax dollars spent on the Estabrook Dam project—ecologically the money should be spent on baseball diamonds, soccer fields, etc. to benefit more people than just live in that area.
- The parks are very important to me - I support many groups that advocate for parks - River Keepers, Urban Ecology Center, ParkPeople. I'm seeing more families in parks.

- I've been a County employee for 17 years but will participate as a private citizen. I am passionate about the park system. I worked in Recreation and providing opportunities for children. Closing facilities early meant kids had no care. I have a parent with ALS and we use County services. We need more money for this. I agree we need to change priorities. I'm working for County to "pay it forward."
- I spend a lot of time Washington Park. I'm passionate about parks - we need to preserve them for all. The parks are important to me. I've witnessed neglect and then a surge of county money. I'm interested in how projects are picked. A lot of the county provided services are directed on a pet project basis. For example, I live in South Milwaukee. Supervisor Jursik retired last year and her going away present to South Milwaukee seemed to be a huge influx of county funding going specifically to Grant Park. I want to know how that funding was secured and how projects are picked. I wonder if that funding was acquired based on favoritism rather than need. Was paving that bike path absolutely necessary when people may need a new bus route?
- I live right by Washington Park. For 20 years, I have been trying to increase attendance and activities in the park. I've followed the budget and found that the amount of staff cannot possibly service all the parks. The parks have been cut every single year or, at best, kept level and there are a list of infrastructure needs. Looking at the budget, I see things that are rated as nonessential, but to us they are. It's hard to understand.
- I have, over the years, ridden buses, used county parks... I have seen a deterioration in the upkeep of parks: landscaping, cleanliness, and lack of signage.
- I feel that parks are spaces where both rich and poor families hang out alike. Additionally, there are tons of people practicing sports and I love watching games.
- I feel that parks are falling apart. My reason to live in a city is the sense of community and the chance to mingle with other people.
- I feel that public spaces should keep on being public, and I am against the sale of public property along the lakefront. I am also against the increase of fees that affect poor people.
- I enjoy using parks, and I believe that they should better maintained. As a homeowner, I would be willing to pay more in order to keep a better upkeep of our parks.
- On the other hand, there has been a decline in our parks since I was a kid.
- I am disappointed in the park system. The parks are not kept up like they use to be and our neighborhoods are depreciating due to abandoned homes where the homes were foreclosed and lack of workers for the city who use to care for the neighborhoods.
- There has been a 25% loss over past ten years in the County Park maintenance staff. 158 parks. 1-2 persons maintain 5 parks a piece. Grass cutting cycle changed from 7-14 day rotation in some areas due to staff decreases, cuts and the growing gaps over the years.
- I work for state senator and has experience with budget on state level. I've been in Milwaukee for six months and I am enjoying the parks.

Transit

- [2 main experiences] A service I use every day is our transit system. I personally use the bus every day, no less than two times a day. I take it anywhere I need to go. I feel that our transit system is vital to our community. It helps our community be more active. It keeps the community cleaner.

- Buses are critical to the lifeblood of any city. It's how people get to jobs. I'm concerned, though about the lack of ridership on our buses. When I'm driving around, I only see 1- 5 people on the bus at once.
- I've used the bus system. I rode the bus between vehicles for quite a few months; I found that I could really get around the city. I have a Go Pass. I've only used it once. I wouldn't mind paying a fee, but I don't think the people who ride the bus every day would like it.
- I currently work for the Milwaukee Salvation Army in an outreach capacity, focusing on housing, mental health and A.O.D.A. issues. Transportation would be the primary area that would impact the programming efforts within the program that I oversee.
- I can get to work OK, but I know friends who are unemployed who had to turn down jobs because of transportation issues. So many jobs are outside the city, where the buses don't go. (Bus routes to those communities would be good priorities, and not eliminating existing bus lines.)
- I carry a Go Pass. It may not impact me now, but I know others who if they didn't have a Go Pass they would be homebound. Elderly people of poverty need a Go Pass to get to their doctor's appointments, other events and services.
- I do not agree to close the budgetary gap in the current budget by eliminating the Free Go Pass.
- The Department on Aging, I think, was against the Go Pass. I'm concerned with what has happened.
- I can't get a bus ride where I live at all. Franklin is not equal with other communities.
- I also took the bus sometimes.
- I'm a pastor and some of the services provided to the elderly that's phenomenal is the transportation services. This service provide mobility and allows them to make their medical and other appointments.
- In my opinion, I wish we could expand our transit system and add more routes for moving back and forth to outer areas.
- I personally would not want the bus fare increased to more than 2.25. I would not like the elderly or disabled be forced to pay unless they would get an adjustment in their income for ridership.
- There are some challenges with the new electronic bus passes as far as rolling them out and getting them to youth programs. There are some problems with the disposable ones because you only can get them at certain locations; the central office. It causes problems for after-school activities and the cost is passed on to the nonprofit's.
- I heard MCTS no longer issues transfers.
- You have to have an electronic card to have a transfer. The issue with paper transfers was fraud. Transfers were given to others.
- How much fraud is there with the GO Pass?
- We need money for road repairs. Why are they spending money on new sports facilities when we don't have basic transit access?
- I witnessed numerous challenges and situations as a service provider for Milwaukee County. (MCTS-Mental Health Complex) MCTS drivers passing up senior citizens on bus stops in the winter and the neglect of some of the staff at the mental health complex on Watertown Plank Road.

- I think the bus services and the parks affect most county residents. I'd like them to be available to all.
- I am a user of services, particularly the bus and the parks.
- I do like our park systems and country transportation systems—our is up to par. It's hard to say about increasing the bus fare 'cuz I don't use it but for someone who uses it might add hardship.
- (participant in wheelchair) If paratransit goes I couldn't go to work or participate in social activities because it's too hard to take the bus in a wheelchair. I make a 10 mile trip to work 3 days a week - a long bus ride is unrealistic. IRIS should not be cut.
- We need to address public transportation issues - millennials don't drive or own cars.
- I see 2 main positive areas - Parks and Transit. Millennials don't drive - many ride bikes so the quality of the roads is important.
- Buses are important to me. My personal experience on the bus has been nothing but horrible. A lot of the times it's hard to find a seat on the bus. There's hollering and cussing and swearing. I've felt threatened. The buses are extremely filthy. I don't see the point of raising bus fares if they're not going to clean them.
- I'm a lifetime resident of the Milwaukee. Milwaukee is noted as having one the best park systems in the nation. Over the years, I feel like that's one of the areas that has become neglected. Roads, bridges, and other infrastructure have decayed simply from neglect. I think there needs to be a better balance of how the county distributes its monies so that we can have better parks and a better quality of life.
- Last year I could not maintain a vehicle because of my work situation, and I needed to use the bus. I don't want a raise in bus fares. 25 cents per ride is steep when I cannot simply pay in the first place. I believe that the county should try to get the funds to close the budget gap from people that have the means.
- Despite that our county publicizes the amount of routes, I have noticed that some routes have been eliminated.
- My mother-in-law, who is retired, uses the bus, and I am against increasing the rate for the elderly and students, who are the most vulnerable when fares go up.
- I have experienced bad customer service from MCTS bus drivers.
- I have had to walk a very long way to the senior center, because the bus driver ignored my request to stop and dropped me off at a further stop.
- I personally would not want the bus fare increased to more than 2.25.
- MCTS moved the bus stop by my house 1 block and that decision has negatively affected my quality of life.
- A timely and reasonably priced bus system is important to my family.
- I think the transit system is very important for we people of color, the elderly and disabled like myself. The high unemployment in the Inner City, elderly who are no longer able to drive themselves and the disabled who might put others at risk if they were driving because of medication etc.
- In my opinion, I wish we could expand our transit system and add more routes for moving back and forth to outer areas.
- I would not like the elderly or disabled be forced to pay unless they would get an adjustment in their income for ridership.

Services for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

- My agency works with people with disabilities and I'm here to advocate on their behalf. Their life experiences are affected by County decisions. I want our priorities to shift. I'm not willing to pay more taxes to hire more County employees. Services should be free - my SSI folks can't afford more fees. I live this every day.
- My experience is from the eyes and experiences of a person in past year was recently diagnosed with a disability. As a disabled person my income is limited and my resources are limited. I really was happy to be eligible to receive the GO PASS. The GO PASS has saved my life. It gives me the opportunity to go to my appointments and gives me the opportunity to take advantage of community activities and services.
- I go to the Native American Council of the Elderly. It provides inexpensive good meals for people, transportation for people to get there and socialize. I'd like to see that stay in place.
- I was President of Franklin Senior Services. It took me ten years to get a meal site for seniors in Franklin. I want to see a senior center in Franklin, more services, and more meal sites. I want the County to support more services in Franklin and not just in the city of Milwaukee.
- I have had quite a few experiences with Milwaukee County. In my former capacity working with Senior Housing and an advocate for seniors. It has been my experience that the rules and regulations currently in place for allowing the housing of seniors to acquire housing are inadequate and in my opinion there should be additional new units constructed [because of the aging of the "Baby Boomers" and a lot of chronic and acute medical conditions require attention, within this budget cycle.
- I currently utilize Wilson Park Senior Center on a daily basis. I am employed through Interfaith For Adults in the capacity of a Wellness Staff person. This facility requires some upgrading and the infrastructure should be shored up.
- I work as a volunteer at the Department of Aging and part of the Wellness Council and very interested in older adults being more active, because we have a lot of research showing activity among older adults is important to improve health. It's has been shown to be more powerful than medicine. For older adults walking in your neighborhood has become a problem. They are not afraid of crime but of auto drivers, because motorists will not recognize pedestrians' right of way. It's a matter of Education. I would like to see the County initiate a safe walkable community strategy. Planning has taken place in other communities across the Nation to create more safe walkable communities for elderly adults. As a safe walkable community Wisconsin ranks 32nd out of 100.
- I've become more aware of the limitations that are placed upon people that grow old in Milwaukee County that don't have available services that they can access easily – such as transportation. I live in Franklin and the nearest bus stop is about four or five miles from my house. I grew up in Milwaukee County when we had mass transportation like street cars that connected all parts of the county. Being involved with the Department of Aging, I know that they support people with food. In Franklin, we provide meals twice a month. I can tell people appreciate the low-cost food and the leftovers we raffle off and give to them. Even the meal program at Franklin City Hall. They take the leftovers and things that would be thrown away. There's a hidden population of people that are food insecure.

- For me, simply taking the job I did four years ago with the county has been an eye-opening experience. I had been working in the private sector for 20 years and after making that shift I could see all the different services that the county provides. I remember touring the medical examiner's office and I still have nightmares about that. There's the parks, the zoo, the airport – all these really diverse things that happen. On a personal level, my dad died about five years ago and my mom is living alone. For my mom and for my family, it's really hard sometimes to find resources to know how to deal this situation. I think elder care issues are huge and are going to become exponentially bigger because of the aging population. We have real struggles with it.
- I've relied on the Department on Aging for neighbors, and they're incredibly responsive. There are a lot of good things, even though the county gets lots of bad press.
- Seniors need secure and comfortable transfer centers. They need to be well lit at night and large. We need routes that go the necessary places not to the places where there used to be watering troughs for the horse drawn trolleys!
- Or what about money for senior centers to stay in good repair; and for staff for programming?
- [In my job] for Senior Housing. I have witness the impact of inadequate funding and how it affects the residents of Senior Housing residents. . . In particular, MCTS and the Mental Health services and programs have been either scaled back or eliminated altogether.
- I personally enjoy coming to the senior center.
- People kept paying into benefits—now they're entering retirement and the benefits are being pulled back. The problem is that things keep going up and I doubt if new people are getting these benefits.

Estabrook Dam

- I just came tonight to say that I'm not in favor of the Estabrook Dam; I want it torn down.
- I've been watching the Estabrook Dam controversy carefully. Keeping the dam will only benefit a few, but many more will suffer. More than the decisions themselves, I'm concerned with how decisions are made.
- I desperately want the Estabrook Park Dam removed. I'm frustrated with the process. I've been to lots of hearings.
- The dysfunctional behavior of the County Board regarding the Estabrook dam issue is a negative. Removing the dam would improve the health of the river.
- I don't have much of an opinion. I just came to express my opposition to the Estabrook Dam.
- I came here because I'm really irritated with the whole Estabrook dam situation. Political moves have been made - it is fiscally ridiculous and irresponsible. I live on the river and my neighbors and I want the dam gone. I appreciate Abele's standing strong against repairing it.
- Nobody at this level is listening regarding the dam. Everyone is listening but the county board. There are politics involved.
- It sounds like the dam is worthless and costing money.
- I'm a property owner on the part of the river impacted by the dam. It doesn't prevent flooding, but rather increases it. Per the floodplain manager, some properties will be removed. The dam benefits the small group of people who use the area for motor boating. They haven't been able to since around 2009 when the gates were ordered open. My house flooded prior to that,

because the gates were not opened quickly enough. Recently, since the opening of the dam, there was a higher water event, and my house did not flood. There are four lawsuits pending, and with one, I would be assessed for dam upkeep. The dam should be removed to save county money.

- The river/lake would be healthier if we took down the Estabrook dam. Fisheries would be restored. I take issue with those with property by the dam, who make everyone else pay. The dam represents bad economics. It wastes money and generates poor power.
- I'm ignorant of the dam. How long ago did they put it in? What would happen if it were removed?
- It would flood property owners' properties.
- I live on Lincoln Creek. My basement flooded several times, and I received no financial help.
- Estabrook Dam and Bucks' spending are ridiculous.

Public Safety/Sheriff's Department

- I had a struggle with a burglar. The County Sheriff's department was helpful.
- I do dispatch in the sheriff's office and I see shortages in terms of staffing. There are not enough units sometimes to be able to send out to patrol parks and all the other things the sheriff and deputies are expected to do.
- I've witnessed good relations between police and homeless people in the Marquette area and this is also a positive.
- On the pie chart of property tax dollars, 50% go towards public safety. Yet, most of our discussion has been on parks and transit.
- The public safety budget is squeezed as well. The county courthouse is deteriorating. It's not clean. They're contracting out more services. Many of those services are state mandated, but not funded. There's an amazing victim witness program, despite funding shortages. How do you cut there? It seems you can't.
- The Sheriff's Department is redundant. It would be better if we just had a the MPD.
- As an attorney in the Milwaukee County courthouse, it was early on when I was a younger attorney doing smaller claims stuff. I remember sitting in the courtroom and hearing the judge calling for help. The judge had made a ruling that was contrary to what this defendant wanted and the defendant had him on the floor. By the time I got back there, the county sheriff had taken care of the situation. The sheriffs need to be there and they need to be supported. The sheriff and his personnel do not get as much respect as they are entitled to.
- The increase in sheriff's budget is for an additional 200 officers.
- Sherriff Clark asking for 209 more deputies is absurd, in my opinion. Sherriff Clark is only grandstanding for political theater, in my opinion.

Transit Related

- o I work as a volunteer with the Council on Aging and the Wellness Council. I am interested in keeping people active as it is the most important thing for good health. Older people are scared to walk in their neighborhood because of cars. I would like to see the County Executive implement a walkable community strategy. We rate 32 out of 100 for a walkable community.

- o The biggest thing for me is the parks, especially the bicycle trails. There could be more education to people using the trails; it can be kind of dangerous on the trails. We need more signage and better lighting on the trails.
- o I am a user of city buses. I do not think that we need security guards in our buses since citizens' behavior has improved a lot in the last years.

Parking

- At the South Side Farmer's Market, there's no permanent signage to tell people not to park. The elderly parking in NO PARKING zones could have their cars towed away. (Since they aren't sure where to park), the elderly have to walk a long way to get from their cars to the Farmer's Market.
- The meters down by the lakefront – one of the few completely free activities I have. Meters seem like a problem that will put on time constraints, putting a damper on [relaxation/family time at the lake] because of having to watch the clock. I take issue with being charged to park. I already pay enough for parking in the city. Cut something else.
- I concur. Every 20 feet there'll be a parking meter. Signs indicating park time will distract from the beauty. Beer gardens and businesses in the parks should pay the tab. Parking meters will make it seem messy on the lake. There are not as many [sherriff's] officers needed on the lake. I see a lot of them standing or sitting around doing nothing. Cut some of them from down by the lake. Put in MORE free parking. There has been the same parking there since 1950 with nothing more added.
- I've used the lakefront every day. For several years there was some smell on the lakefront. A donor gave [money] to improve it. Meters would be unsightly, and almost like caging it [the lakefront]. On the very, very hot days it's difficult to get down on the lakefront due to the numbers of people escaping the heat of other parts of the city who are coming to enjoy the breeze. I'd hate to see us charged for it [with the installation of meters]. I want it to be left alone and very available to us all. I want to hold those precious places to mix the community and enjoy each other's company.
- My personal experiences involve parking. I don't support any measure to place parking meters along the Lake Drive. I've been towed and ticketed. I was just parked at Locust Street Days, was towed, and had to pay over \$200 to get my car back. The whole system encourages towing companies to take advantage of those who have been towed.
- I am against the installation of parking meters in the lakefront. I would be in favor of charging people that come to the lakefront once a year. Meters are stupid.
- I am a lake vendor, I think parking meters at the lake is a bad idea.
- I am here for Parks. I thought the Lake was free. Why don't you charge at all County Parks? Where did money come from for Art Museum? Why is there no reduced expense in budget?
- I would be ok with meter parking or increasing usage fees for the Marina and Lake Front.

Mental Health

- I'm most passionate about mental health care services. Those who don't interact with the system don't know how broken it is. We spend 70% of our budget on acute care and 30% of our budget on general wellness. That's the reverse of most counties around the country. That's fiscally irresponsible.

- Our County behavioral system has received citations from the federal government that we are putting people at risk. (Part of the problem is that) private hospitals have been rejecting admitting people in poverty and people of color, referring them to the County's mental health facilities. They've been doing this practice for a long time
- In addition, the behavioral health department of Milwaukee County, in my estimation is sorely lacking and requires some infrastructural changes.
- I'm concerned about how contracts are awarded out of the mental health budget. I got involved because a CBRF, a Community Based Residential Facility, was built down the block from where I live. The 2-year, 5 million dollar contract for it was awarded without bids. I'm concerned about what type of operation they have going. Because of the CBRF, there are sex offenders in my neighborhood. They work around the law to get sex offenders into community facilities. One sex offender was ruled incompetent to stand trial, so since he was never convicted of a sex offense, he was put into a CBRF.
- My experience with the County services has been good and bad. I have mental illness but the former mental health facility was poorly maintained, staff in disarray, dark and dreary. Mental health services for individual with issues and disabilities in the African community are lacking. I sit on a Board where we are working to get adequate services. The County needs to address their needs. They don't have adequate services; the County needs to address their needs. I had a strong support system and with medication I was able to make it. Even though I had bad experience with the County drastic steps are needed to improve these services.
- I am a former county employee (Mental Health Counselor). I do not agree with shutting down of Health Services. Personally, I feel the division that was shut down was wrong and a big mistake.

County Government; County Executive; Policy

- Where is the County Executive? Doesn't he care about listening to the people? [session 2]
- How do we know he'll be reading our comments? [session 2]
- I am frustrated with these questions. I have not been able to talk about what I want or what is important to me. It is the county executive's job to make the budget and find solutions to the budget problems, not mine. I want to talk about what is important to me face to face with him. I want him to hear my voice being in front of me. [session 2]
- I agree with almost everything Chris Abele has done and I'm a big supporter of his.
- I'm aware of how policy is made in the County—to use a cliché, it is like making sausage. The Executive carries a lot of weight. I'm concerned with how policy is made.
I have a problem with the State saying we can't raise taxes to help. I think Abele is right almost every time when he goes against the Board; I share his views.
- I'm a proponent of what the county does: parks, public transit, and the Department on Aging all have a huge impact with limited budgets.
- It wasn't until I started working for the county that I really became invested on a personal level in all of the safety net services that we provide. I really believe so strongly in the importance of the county government because a lot the services that it provides are not services that the majority of the population will use directly. I feel like most of us will not need to use the county mental health services or need to be housed because we're homeless. I may never need to use the child

support services because I don't have kids. But that doesn't mean that I don't benefit indirectly from having a safer, healthier community because of those services.

- Finally, the infrastructure throughout Milwaukee County are in horrendous condition.
- I and my partner moved from Waukesha County to Milwaukee County recently {conscious choice} Because of our shared values my partner and I could no longer be residents in Waukesha, we both desired a better quality of life. I currently work as an advocate for disenfranchised populations throughout Milwaukee County. I have been a witness to abuse, neglect, and injustice to this population. In my conclusion the tax increases that are proposed are certainly within reason, however; I do not agree with all that the Budget Director (Steve) during his presentation outlined.
- I do not understand the funding disparities, which occur on different sides of Milwaukee County (Northside vs. Southside) areas and how the infrastructure in different areas are not adequate funding for maintenance.
- Who is going to look at the criteria? Is it someone outside the situation who doesn't know what it is like inside the situation?
- We can't let people from the outside decide what is right for our community. Everyone needs some help.
- We had a 78% cutback on full-time and seasonal staff. I'm trying to do so much more and all the while I am making less now than I was 13 years ago. I'm tired of not being able to provide the services that the residents want.
- From my experience, I feel that some of the increases in fares that the county is proposing are going to affect perniciously the users of the services.
- Eight years ago, we voted for an increase of the sales tax in order to improve services, but my perception is that the situation has deteriorated. I believe wealthy people should pay more, but the increases should be small so they do not tax the poor.
- We have taken time out of our private life to talk to our leaders and where are they? With their families! Can't the County executive be here? It is insulting!
- The fact that our representatives are not here speaks volumes about their interest in hearing our voice.
- I have no complaints with county services.
- I would like to see more realism in the budget
- I am tired of bureaucratic thinking.
- I just moved here from Chicago a couple of weeks ago and I am excited about all there is to do socially, the restaurants and recreation opportunities. I am looking forward to being here and working for the county.
- I would pay more taxes to save our parks, gardens and transit services for elderly and disabled.

Gardening

- I'm a UW extension volunteer. I helped start a mindful gardening program. Gardening has physical and mental benefits. I teach people how to garden despite, and to avoid, physical problems. My interest is to teach people how to garden and get the benefits. I want ongoing county help with this.
- I have a garden.

- I've been really impressed by the work that the county's UW Extension does. Specifically, they have done an amazing job with the community gardens that are across the street from Journey House. They've been in existence for a couple of years prior to this year. They got an architect to build a gazebo that catches water and pours into a rain barrel. The garden is a good way to be a positive outreach of Journey House facility because when you look at it, it's just a big building but then to have those the community gardens across the street is something that people can look at and interact with and be a part of. I think it's a really good thing.
- I enjoy watching the people stop by the gardens and introduce themselves.
- I wish we had more opportunities to expand the community gardens and not take them away.
- I would rather us spend the money on community gardens rather than investing any more money in the Domes.
- I work closely with the UW Extension with the emphasis on Urban Farming and eliminating "Food Deserts". When Nancy Zemphyr was the Chancellor at UW-Milwaukee and "The Milwaukee Idea" was born there was, initially, genuine collaboration with Milwaukee County that interaction and collaboration has diminished significantly in recent budget cycles.
- The county needs to continue to support UW-Extension. All information we share as master gardeners is research based. Fact based information is not promoted [to the general public so that they are aware of the program and its' services] because a county paid us to present it. Due to my age, I'm a testimony that the program is attracting younger people, can curb crime, and build community [This individual is late 20s early 30s]. We make sure there is no contamination in the soil of gardeners, remediate lead problems, etc.
- The seed initiative through UW-Extension Agriculture. It was started this year in eight county parks. We build 4'X8' gardens. It costs \$20.00 to rent the garden space. It brings a sense of community. I've been meeting neighbors I would never have met, or wouldn't otherwise have a means of meeting [as a result of the community garden plots]. It's [the seed initiative] money well spent. If you can't increase the amount of money going to the program, keep funding where it is. Suburbanites talk about how much better the area looks.
- I am a member of a county sponsored gardening program with flowerbed that cost \$175.00-\$300.00 apiece. I have seen community members have the chance to grow food. I would like to see more urban gardens sell their food to their veggies at farmer's markets.

Golf

- Some of the elderly members of my congregation are transported to medical appointments by the bus system. I use the golf courses which are the best in the country. Golf is very popular but I don't think the golf courses can handle fee increases.
- Our golf courses are some of the best in the country however as golf is becoming more competitive, so are the fees. The fees charged for our golf courses need to be competitive with non-county courses. I do not think that they will stand and increase in fees and still have an increase in use or attract new golfers. I would not recommend cutting funding to the parks and golf courses.
- People who play golf have the money to play golf. So they can pay.
- The people who play golf are the wealthy and they should be able to afford paying more.

Youth

- I work with the Center for Youth Engagement with a citywide initiative, Beyond the Bell. We work with other organizations to help youth orient to society. [A family member] teaches in a middle school and sees that youth starting to get into trouble. The hours between 3p.m and 6pm are the critical hours when youth can get into trouble. I would like to see more intentional spending in this area.
- I agree. I work with middle school children and noticed that younger age school students are getting in trouble. There's certain time or hours we see students most likely getting into trouble. I would like to make sure that we have quality after school programs, because national statistics have shown the prime time that students get in trouble is between 3 - 6pm. I would like seeing the county provide some wrap around services. I have a hard time figuring out where funding is spent on youth services.
- I wish we could increase the budget for child support staff. We have done a good job in creating programs to assist fathers. There is a huge caseload and the staff only 135 people where as it used to be 220 in 2003. I can't see cutting any more staff.
- I try to help the kids in my neighborhood. I talk to them about why they mess with the neighbors, why they want a concealed carry permit. I am a baseball coach now for three years. My son wanted to play, so I am a coach. I go to the Boys and Girls Club and talk to the young people there. So many people need compassion and help who are distraught about their loved ones. We can't judge them. We have to have compassion. Maybe someone's behavior is not right but we have to understand why they act the way they do.
- I'm 72. My family's been here since 1839. What used to be free services are now fee-charging - pool, zoo, museum. I understand that things are more expensive now but this creates more barriers between children. I want children to experience the same feelings of pride and ownership in Milwaukee that I did growing up and still do.
- It takes a village to raise a kid, and our village is Milwaukee County. We need to provide opportunities for our kids to be safe and grow. There is nothing in the county that helps our kids to develop their skills.

Housing/Quality of Life

- There is a house at the end of our alley that is a mess. My wife and I have lived in our home for seven years. At a meeting of neighbors with the alderperson I brought up the condition of that house. Three days later my garage was spray-painted – as a response to my speaking up, I believe. The city told me I had three days to take care of the graffiti on my garage or I would pay a fine. I had never done siding before so I did my best. It cost my wife and I money. I got messed up by voicing my concern. Another time at a meeting some city folks told us they were sending people around to tell us about raising our taxes on our property. They would look at the condition of our property. My wife and I try to keep up our home. But we get no help from the city. We had to get the roof fixed but we don't get help from the city.
- We've been paying our way but the money from our salary doesn't make it. We got our roof fixed but the leak was still there. We don't have the money to take the company to court to settle. We paid \$15,000. But the leak is still there. We can't get help.

- I came to Milwaukee from Mississippi in 1951. I have seen many changes. But mostly I have seen conditions become worse than when I arrived. In so many neighborhoods like mine, where people are not able to pay much, yet they are required to pay more than other, richer areas. Insurance is cheaper in the suburbs than in my neighborhood. Food is cheaper and of better quality in other neighborhoods than mine. Why is it that people pay more in cities where so many people are without funds?

Criminal Justice System:

- I am especially concerned about the use of funding that increases social injustice. There is an embarrassing disparity in terms of race in our judicial system, and our budget reinforces such disparity.
- My degree was in criminal justice. But I can't work in that. I took all those courses and have that money debt to pay but I can't work in my field. When I was seventeen...well, I was sixteen but they waited three days till my birthday to charge me. Now I have a felony. I never did any time. But I can't get a job where I can carry a gun. It's in another state so it's hard to get it changed. I am 38 now. I did all that studying and they didn't tell me till the end that I couldn't get a job in my field.
- As far as incarceration if you don't do something on the front end as far as incarcerated individuals, it will cost more on the back end. There have been studies to show that if children are not repaired at a certain age they may wind up going to prison. This is one area where we can make an investment on the front end.
- My brother died recently. He was bipolar. The services that were available to him have been reduced over the years. I feel that there is no place for detoxing, just jails to be incarcerated. I want to invest in policies that stop criminal behavior like psychological treatment services. I especially feel that the psychological services on children should improve to prevent that more black kids go to jail.
- Watching "Zip Code 53206" should be mandatory for our officials.
- Sending children to the north to be incarcerated is not making our communities safer (that is not an statistic, it is a fact), and when they return, they have not learned the necessary skills to become productive members of our society.
- I am in favor of restorative justice initiatives that prevent citizens from going to jail. I would like to kill/sell institutions that are not used. At least 50 millions would be freed up from these initiatives and safety in our neighborhoods would improve. I know this data because I work inside of the system. It is not crazy but very feasible.
- I want our county to focus on prevention. I want to take half of the budget from the sheriff's office and the court system to put all that money towards prevention and to make our communities safer. It is a fact that violence prevention works. More law enforcement equals higher crime rate. Likewise, more incarceration equals more crime rate. Do not give more money to the sheriff's office!
- I think we should be keeping people out of jail that should not be there. People in jail as a result of traffic fines and mental health, should be addressed through alternative methods.

Miscellaneous:

- As an immigrant from India I have lived in Milwaukee for 46 years. I have a close feeling for this country. When President Kennedy was assassinated in 1962 I cried as if a close relative had died. But the USA has become dominated by profit. Profit has become the business of government and corporate entities. What has happened is that corporations are stealing from the people and the government. Some are making money off of the rest. For instance, my car insurance: Before if something broke I would get it replaced with insurance; now my rates just go up. I think we need to make profit from the resources these corporations are using. Even the media uses our airwaves for so little a price. We could charge more and balance the budget with those funds. Corporations use government built roads. We can charge more for their use.
- We get fewer services. When I came the garbage men cleaned up every scrap of trash, now much is left behind. 76th Street between Grantosa and Mill Road is a State Highway yet it is never cleaned up nor is the grass mown. But north and south of that area the grass is mown.
- Finally, we need to keep our city strong. When we ask people to pay for services we are making an inferior city. I don't think we should have to pay for everything in the county.
- The Bucks come and want money. The citizens have to pay. I have traveled a lot and in some cities the entrepreneurs will pick up the payment for things like tour busses for tourists so that tourists feel welcomed. That happened in St Louis when I was there.
- Our lakefront is the centerpiece of our city. People come from all over and want to sit there and enjoy it. If we make them pay we will drive them away and our town will be a ghost town.
- I am concerned about someone trying to qualify that has the gift of gab. They can impress you. I try to take care of my own responsibilities. I think we have to be compassionate. We need to help each other, be a bridge. No one can know everything so we can help each other. When we try to go alone we can miss something. We need to find the positive.
- We have a problem with guns. People are getting killed. Some say build prisons, but there will never be enough prisons. Why? Because they aren't reaching the problem. We have to talk to these young people and ask them why they do these things. They are smart. They are just trying to find themselves, a family.
- Our media does not help with so much negativity.
- I moved from the shores of Lake Superior to the shores of Lake Michigan. My mom told me I would love Milwaukee because it was founded by Socialists. We need to go back to our Socialist roots and change priorities.
- I'm old and I volunteer for people in all communities. Money doesn't solve all problems - only people can help people. Enabling dependence takes away pride and dignity. Things were different when I was coming up.
- I have a personal experience with the Veteran Services Center on the Northwest side, I think the Veterans gardening program is a great idea.
- I live in Milwaukee County and I feel we need work to integrate system "Guest House". "Mada House" and Truth Center. I feel we need to keep transit fee's down. Poor people and disabled cannot pay for transit if they have no money.
- I thought we already paid for these in the beginning. Milwaukee is becoming a house not being taken care of.
- I would like to know where we are with the Domes

Round 2 Question: "While Milwaukee County has made progress on improving its fiscal health, the 2017 budget still has a \$66 million budget gap and a long list of infrastructure needs. The County Executive does not want to cut services to fill this gap and is considering new revenue options. The following options are available to the County (Note: The State of Wisconsin does not allow the county to increase its sales tax beyond the current 5 percent rate). Which one of these would you support the most or would be your first choice for a revenue source?"

Responses:

Increase property taxes, if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parks and County highways

- Increase property taxes. I'm from the city of Chicago. As much as people complain here (in Milwaukee) about taxes, they are still reasonable. It would be worth the increase to have good parks and mental health services
- Raise property taxes. As a property owner, I would be more than happy to pay the max that's needed (to cover the shortfall). If it's \$5-\$10 per homeowner every year, I can just skip a case of import beer and have PBR instead once in awhile.
- I would increase user fees wherever possible. I wish property taxes could be synced with income levels. I would be willing to pay more for fees and taxes (because I can afford it; others can't).
- Increase the tax bill.
- I agree: those who best afford it should pay. Definitely 1 or 4. For 1, people pay proportionally [higher property values equal higher taxes].
- I would raise property taxes. Let the people with higher property values pay more. However, that's not politically popular, so a more realistic solution would be to jack up vehicle registration fees.
- Usually when taxes are raised it affects certain groups of people especially property taxes. I don't like taxes being raised. I'm learning how it's distributed.
- I think it's very necessary if you want to increase services that you had to increase taxes you just can't get something for nothing, if you want to maintain the same level of service. If you are talking about ten to fifteen dollars for property tax increase that's not much at all.
- #1 would be my choice of all. I think the others would have a negative impact on the poor and less privileged.
- I believe in progressive taxation so Option 1 strikes me as most progressive. I have lived in areas where counties could add taxes.
- #1 would be my second choice because it would support bus system, County parks and County highways that we need.
- I would agree to #1 property tax increase, I voted on that before.
- Property tax increase would be better route to take. Less complicated and more beneficial.
- Increase property taxes, if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parks and County highways.
- I definitely do not want property tax increases.
- Hopefully the Bartolotta bistro pays a huge amount. It's for the rich, plus they got the custard shop on the lake. Also, look at the mansions on the lake. Do they pay their fair share, or are

they in a loophole where they pay less taxes that are not commensurate with the size and value of their homes? Do a home-by-home assessment to make sure they are paying their fair share for the value of their homes.

- In terms of property taxes, as a city resident, I'm fairly heavily burdened with taxes. For people paying \$2K and barely scraping by, an extra \$50.0 in taxes is a lot.
- First choice is property taxes—we did go down a little in taxes before. Now the least effect my suggestion is for the \$5 to \$10 increase. I'm ok with it. The minor fluctuation would average itself out—it's \$5 to 100 vs. \$20 to 50. It makes sense to me especially if you have more than one vehicle.
- I would like to see increase in taxes. This is a high tax state—there's some disparity in income.
- What about fees for park services; for some of the better golf courses? Not the smaller parks.
- Increase property taxes—we're already a heavily taxed state.
- I have a modest income but I wouldn't mind 1 or 3. I'd pay a little more property tax if the roads would be improved. It cost me \$400 to replace a tire and rim after I hit a pothole.
- I support raising property taxes. Raise the taxes. I feel like taxes are supposed to support the services that improve quality of life. I feel like politicians feel proud of not raising taxes, but they need to raise them in order to support public services.
- I would support raising property taxes and trusting our county supervisors to spend the money in the right way.
- I support raising property taxes. The county needs more money for all services and all the other options are basically consumption taxes which would be segregated into its own bucket. For example, a vehicle registration fee would just go back into the roads. What if we start charging vehicle registration fees, but there's another blight in the trees? A property tax would raise funds that can go where they are needed at any point.
- I don't like any of the options, but I would go for raising property taxes.
- Option one because it is the only one that is progressive. The rest would affect the poor much more.
- First of all, I see a failure of county executives to see true investment in our community. I would advise a small increase in property taxes, although I do not consider this increase truly progressive for the rich. I would completely disagree with the rest of options because they are unfair to the poor, who are affected greatly.
- I think property tax should be raised statewide.
- #1 would be my second choice because it would support bus system, County parks and County highways that we need.
- Option one because out of the options offered it is the best since richer citizens would be affected more.
- Increase property taxes. I believe that property tax pays for quality of life.
- An increase in property taxes.
- #1 would be my choice of all. I think the others would have a negative impact on the poor and less privileged.

New: Parking meters along the lakefront, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks.

- Parking meters at the lakefront would generate money from people from outside the area.
- Charging a fee for park. Allow the market to drive the cost for parking
- I'm in favor of increasing parking fees. It's a win/win for our county. I go to Chicago and the limited parking is ridiculous.
- I would support putting meters along the lakeside, but not too high. It shouldn't cost 15 dollars to park at the lake for the day.
- I'm afraid parking meters by the lake would lessen use.
- I'm against lakefront meters – that would destroy the socialist vision of the lakefront area.
- I have mixed feelings about parking meters by the lake. It crosses a line. However, it gets money out of non-Milwaukee County residents, and it is used highly by those from outside of Milwaukee who don't pay for services.
- #2 would be my first choice. I think people would be willing to pay to park at lakefront. I think it would generate some good revenue to keep the lake front property up.
- I would lean to # 2 meter parking for some of Lakefront keeping in mind UWM Students Park there and catch the bus to school.
- If they were to put parking meters on the lakefront, they chase away people like me who are unwilling to pay. One of the best features of Milwaukee is free access to the lake; we are not Chicago.
- I'd be curious to know if when they figured out the revenue from the lakeshore meters, they also factored in the costs of the meters themselves and the labor to do it.
- New: Parking meters along the lakefront, if the money collected is used to maintain parks.
- As a second choice, I would support parking meters on the lakefront but only costing \$.25. It is free now. Like the above comment: if you use the service then you pay.
- I do not want parking meters on the Lake Front.
- I like going to the lakefront for free and I like being safe especially when the sheriff's department (as opposed to the police).
- Parking meters on lakefront I don't know how it would work; there's a lot of crowds coming to lake.
- An increase doesn't help at all—parking meters on lakefront—I don't think it's feasible. Maybe if they added one bus route to service the lakefront that would give people options. If not, there's a disparity of who can and can't enjoy the lakefront.
- Lakefront parking meter—we ought to charge people for building and maintaining parking lanes. I'm not against cars.
- What's sad about parking meters is violations. I can pay the ticket today but what about if you're limited in your income, with tickets you can't get your car registration renewed, then you're gonna get pulled over and end up in jail. Then I'm paying for the cost of you going to jail.
- I am absolutely opposed to the idea of meters at the lake. I have been hearing this idea since the 90's. It is time to kill this idea, once and for all.
- Option 2 - Milwaukee people use the Lakefront but don't pay. Chicago charges - we don't.
- I also feel like the parking meters are on the lakefront wouldn't be the worst thing. I think if there were fees for parking, there would be less congestion.

- The idea of meters at the lake is total crap, in my opinion.
- I am torn on #2 the meter parking. I think some people would be willing and are able to pay to park at lakefront. I think it would generate some good revenue to keep the lake front property up. My concern is the impact on the poor who like to enjoy the Lake Front.
- No parking meters at the lake.
- I am against the rest, especially implementing parking meters. I emphatically reject the parking meter option.
- On the other hand, parking meters might deter people from using the lakefront.
- #2 I think would have a favorable impact as well as negative impact on the low-income population. Parking tickets would become an issue so I am concerned about that.

New: Vehicle registration fee (in the range of \$20-\$60 for purchased vehicle), if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parkways and County highways.

- Raise the vehicle registration fee. This would bring in the most money in comparison with the other options, even at the lowest amount suggested. Property taxes would only raise 4 to 6 million, and bus fares only 1 to 4 million.
- I've had some time with this and considered individuals in each category and what they're going through. Revenue has to come from somewhere. I like the idea of a vehicle registration fee for new car buyers, because it's one time. [Someone intervened briefly to say it was annual, rather than one time. Participant then reconsidered.] When I pay for my car, I'm not very happy.
- I would do vehicle registration. That seems to be the one that's most feasible and would gain the most revenue.
- My first choice is the vehicle registration. When looking at the budget shortfall, the vehicle registration fee provides the biggest bang for their buck, so to speak. The challenge is that some people can afford something like that and some people can't.
- On the list from question 2, I would say 3 (vehicle registration fee), and possibly 4 (fees for certain County Park amenities).
- I believe in the vehicle registration fee. I think it is reasonable to ask people who own cars to support the repair of things that wear down because of their driving on them – things like parkways and highways. I use these things and I could take the bus, but I don't. I would be okay with paying a little more for that.
- I choose the vehicle registration fee. In terms of economics of what we are doing, it makes sense to do what would take the biggest swing. I'd say go for \$50 to knock that shortfall down. Part of the reason I say that is because I'm encouraged by the fact the shortfall went down and I want that to continue by having something like this vehicle registration fee. I am also in support of encouraging alternate transportation.
- #3 would be my first choice because it's a onetime fee.
- Instead of #3 I would be in favor of parking stickers purchased monthly or quarterly.
- (I support) the vehicle registration fee. If it is used to support the transportation system. I now pay \$95 for a 20-year-old car. I have to pay it anyway. I blow \$20 on a meal; once a year increase is not going to hurt me. None of these [options listed] are going to generate a lot of money.

- I live in the City of Milwaukee, so I pay \$95, not \$75 and additional fees would be very high. I resent the graphic they showed comparing registration fees to other states making it look so inexpensive in Wisconsin since I pay \$95 already.
- Raise the vehicle registration fee. Our surrounding states have tolls, we don't; we are really lucky. It seems reasonable to me.
- I don't own a car, but I choose a new vehicle registration fee. It's a real tax: if you own a car, you can be more mobile. There are a lot of cars, so there's a lot of potential to raise funds.
- Vehicle registration is more feasible and would generate more revenue.
- (My second choice is) vehicle registration (after raising property taxes). We have the lowest rate among surrounding states. It would suck, but I could save the money somewhere else. It would be worth it for a higher quality of life.
- I used to work for the City of Milwaukee. You cannot increase services without increasing taxes. You cannot get something from nothing. I support vehicle registration fees.
- I like the vehicle registration fee because it doesn't hit the poorest of the poor.
- Vehicle registration fees adversely affect the poor. I want to know that money would be used for maintenance, buildings, and structures.
- I wouldn't mint a \$10-15 raise in the vehicle registration fee.
- I recognize the problem of the budget gap. I'm noticing how county facilities are changing for the worse. Increasing the vehicle registration fees would help. I am a City of Milwaukee resident, too. My first choice would be vehicle registration fees, which would have the biggest bang.
- Vehicle registration fee (in the range of \$20-\$60 for purchased vehicle), if the money collected is used to support the bus system, County Parkways and County highways.
- Like the registration fee for cars. People need their cars to go to work. They don't need to pay extra. They have to have insurance and maintenance. They have to have something left for their family. If the government wants to take money from someone, they should take it from those with money, like the TV stations (\$2).
- I think that vehicle fees can increase a little bit.
- For someone who bought a \$200.00 car, that's all they can afford. There should be a graduated registration fee based on the value of the car.
- Of all choices #3—vehicle registration fee. It generates the most revenue than the other options. The least favorite is the parking meters—it's ugly and hits people who can't afford it.
- Not an increase in vehicle registration! There are a lot of people living in the city who have to get out to suburbs to work. Why not put increase on second car/boat to encourage people to use public transportation.
- Registration fee—it's comparative—I think that someone in suburbs having to pay less than me is bad.
- I agree that we need some of these or others. Vehicle registration is my first choice—it raises a certain amount of money. Cars don't pay for the cost of roads; \$10 million from property tax and County to roads that people think are free. Other services such as schools are getting shafted. Car owners need to pay more.
- Option 3 - vehicle registration fees should be based on value. I want revenue to go toward something that is sustainable and uses good business practices so that my dollars go farther.

- I support vehicle registration fees the most. The proposed fee is low and most people who have cars can afford it. I think it's the least painful.
- I think car registration should be a progressive tax.
- I believe that vehicle registration based on the age and value of the car is a great idea. I would agree to #3 vehicle registration increase.

Increase fees for certain County Park amenities, such as golf course fees, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks.

- I agree with increasing fees for certain County Park amenities. I like the idea of paying directly to what's used, using dedicated funds.
- Paying more for golf would be okay, but not for pools.
- I would like to see what they do with the money for park amenities as far as parking meters I think that would be more acceptable to gain revenue. It's not a lot of money that would be gain but it would help.
- I would for the increase in amenities. It would be sort of a luxury tax in my mind. If people can afford to go golfing – and everything is expensive about golfing – they are usually people of means and can afford to pay more for these services.
- I choose Option 4 - I want to pay only for the amenities I use. I would have no problem paying to use a pavilion but not a golf course.
- This is difficult because we have a \$66 deficit but the options raise insignificant amounts. I believe that Options 3 and 4 are best. We pay more tax for more expensive houses but don't pay for what we use in parks.
- Increase fees for certain County Park amenities, such as golf course fees, if the money collected is used to maintain the County Parks.
- I use the county parks a lot. I support raising fees for the park services because it is not a "blanket" cost to all citizens. As I use the park I pay for it. If you use a service then pay for it.
- I think fees at parks can increase.
- If you play golf then you can pay.
- I pick fees for county parks as the best. None of the others ones are good at all. All this other stuff adds up. My wife and I both have college degrees, yet we have to work two jobs and still we don't have enough. We have student loan fees, and childcare, and all the other stuff. We are trapped in a box. I am working two jobs but not in my field. It is a struggle. There is no extra cash. We have a son to raise. We work to keep our son from being bored with different activities.
- If we increased fees for wealthy who golf, they may be less likely to keep playing.
- I am in the parks five or seven days a week. People need to be able to take their kids to the park. Where is the play equipment – at the park. I like the fees for certain park amenities. This is a way to draw revenue from those outside the county.
- Number 4: increase park amenities and also for beer establishments. They should all pay their fair share. Those who use those facilities should pay.
- I am in favor of increased golf fees.
- As long as the middle class is not affected, we do need to update Transit system. We do need less driving of cars for environment. Golf fees can be raised. What was the purpose of GO Pass if you're going to take it away?

- Number 4: increase fees for certain amenities. Direct cost to the users of those facilities. Upkeep for golf courses is more than regular lawn mowing on the parks. Charge the users. Trolley cars failed and went away. How will it [bringing trolleys back] work better than what we had?
- Golf courses. If someone can afford playing golf, let them pay the fees.
- Increasing fees for golf courses and beer gardens feels good, but as an accountant I know that it doesn't bring in much revenue. It would be a supplement, but not a cure, so my suggestion is a registration fee for vehicles due to the significant revenue that it will bring in. Our fee is significantly less than other states. I don't want to pay more, but it will generate money to bridge the gap in funding without a lot of pain to others.
- The park system—people who don't live in the County can and should pay more—charge them through the nose. The last thing I want is the bus fares increased—50 cents/day, 5 times a week over 1 year that's a lot of money. I would hate to see us do it but we may have to do it.
- Option 4 - people who don't pay taxes here should pay for our services they use.
- We need to pay for the parkways in our parks. Use of the Oak Leaf Trail has increased. I did some quick math - \$50 increase = \$.13 day = \$20 million. Benign neglect costs more. Raising property tax would be my second choice but only if \$ go toward what I think is important.
- Those playing golf should pay.
- I agree with fees for park services.
- None of them is desirable, but I would prefer one or four, which are the lesser of bigger evils.
- I oppose the increase of golf course fees because I believe that current fees cover the upkeep of the golf course, which should be their ultimate purpose. I do not believe in using these fees to close a budget gap on other areas.
- I am wondering about what it means to increase fees for amenities. I would like to know more specifics. I oppose the rest of options.
- #4 would be my second choice. The increases should be for the Golf Courses, the Marina and Domes.
- #4 I want to know how much of an increase and is the increase the same for everyone no matter their background and income.

Increase bus fares for all bus users (currently \$2.25 per ride – increase to \$2.50 per ride), if the money collected is used to support the bus system.

- I work at Walnut Way. I have a leery "yes" to increasing fees, but no parking fees on the lakefront. I'm a surfer and that would affect me. Yes to smaller fees. Maybe increasing bus fares for all; No to adjusting fares for seniors.
- I am opposed to eliminating the Go Pass.
- I support all options except increasing bus fares. The Department on Aging did not support free passes for seniors. It should be based upon income and ability to pay.
- Regarding bus fare, elderly and disabled riders have less income. Maybe they could charge \$0.75, and gradually increase the amount. \$1.10 is kind of high. I wish I had more info regarding the income level and transit utilization of this group.
- Every other city has 'fees galore.' I'm against increasing bus fares.

- I'm biased. I work for the county. #6 reverses the Go Pass. The Go Pass is not income tested – that's the biggest issue right now. At the very least it should be income based – if it were, that would raise a fraction of the \$4 million per year. As it is, everyone would take advantage of it. We should definitely not increase bus fare.
- I support all the increases except the bus fare. I think it's important to keep bus fare as low as possible because it helps support our business communities.
- #5 would probably decrease ridership which would in turn cut routes.
- Increase bus fares for all bus users (currently \$2.25 per ride – increase to \$2.50 per ride), if the money collected is used to support the bus system.
- Buses are empty. Let's look at putting smaller buses on routes that don't need the big buses. Due to the issue with big buses and few people on them, it's pointless to bring in trolleys.
- Bus fare of \$2.25 is relatively low to increase it wouldn't be bad but I don't know how the system stays solvent with allowing people to ride free.
- I would support increasing bus fare by \$.25. I don't think a quarter is a whole lot more to add per ride. The other options are not as appealing.
- I oppose bus fares and the increase of golf course fees because these facilities are not necessarily for the rich but for people who want to try something new.
- #5 would probably decrease ridership which would in turn cut routes.

Adjust bus fares for seniors and persons with disabilities to \$1.10 per ride (currently free), if the money collected is used to support the bus system.”

- I think seniors should pay the same fees as others. We are asking low-income riders to subsidize the seniors.
- The department of agency did not support free bus passes for the Aging. That was pushed through by the County Board without the approval of the Department of Aging. If anyone should be given a subsidy it should be based upon income. There are far more poor working people that need lower bus pass then seniors. It is important to have the seniors pay the same as other riders.
- My first choice would be to adjust the senior and disability bus fare to \$1.10. I think that people are taking advantage of the current pass program and it has cost more than the county originally planned. The Department of Aging sent a letter to the county board stating that it was not going to work and now it can say “I told you so.” I think that's fairer than free. There is a need for that low cost transportation. I know its constant struggle for our county citizens to make ends meet.
- #6 would be my second choice. The disabled and seniors have monthly income and should be able to pay a reduced rate.
- #6 eliminates the pass and I would be interested in the impact of ridership so I say no.
- Most people using it are disabled [rather than elderly] and there are loose definitions of disability. It's not social security disabled, but based on a doctor's note. Go Passes are sold on Craigslist, and given to others. The photo ID check is not often enforced. An option would be to have a higher disability threshold and to have to reprove disability on a regular basis. It's rare around the country to have free transit for people with disabilities and seniors.
- Adjust bus fares for seniors and persons with disabilities to \$1.10 per ride (currently free), if the money collected is used to support the bus system.”

- I do not want the bus fares for seniors and disabled to increase.
- Seniors and those with disabilities should NOT have to pay. That would be reprehensible.
- Where I live in Franklin, buses don't run. I have to take a car. I do massage therapy. I have to take my equipment [because I do therapy in client's homes]. I can afford that more than my disabled neighbor who has to take the bus.
- I think seniors and disabled citizens should be charged \$1.00, but the county should find state and federal grants to cover that fee, so the county is stuck with the bill.
- There are vans for disabled, not \$35.00/ride. That's astounding!
- Go Pass—it's a false choice. I support Go Passes if you're a senior you have limited choices; put the ½ increase fare back on and retain the Go Passes for those who *simply* cannot get from here to there.
- Bus fares—different for a lot of bus riders as far as seniors and disabled are concerned I hate to see an increase.
- Option 6 - no seniors were asked about increasing fees. I'm on the board at Dept. of Aging and never heard any discussion.
- I am in agreement with charging seniors and disabled citizens \$1.10 to ride the bus.
- #6 eliminates the Go Pass and I would be interested in the impact of ridership.

Round 3 Question: "If there is one revenue source from question 2 that you do not support at all, which one is it and why? Is there an alternative you would look at?"

Responses:

Parking Meters:

- I don't support the parking meter option. It would discourage people from using the parks and I wonder where that stops. Parking meters in Chicago created problems and were privatized. I would worry about where this would go. Are you going to start metering other parks? The Milwaukee River Parkway? (Also) not everyone has the means to pay; it would be onerous for many people.
- I do not like parking meters. Some people like to hang out all day at the beach. It's a pain to fill meters. They (parking meters) are ugly. Where does this stop? Where would it end?
- I'm vehemently opposed to parking meters by the lake. There should be some other form of revenue, some form of entertainment instead. Maybe there could be a movie night on the lake. I miss drive-in theaters, or maybe it could be walk-in. Get creative with entertainment options. The lakefront is everyone's open space, and the opportunity to enjoy that without putting quarters in a meter shouldn't be taken away. I hate those computerized meters.
- I am against putting parking meters along the lakefront. I think it would be a PR mistake to do that. I also feel like the money you would potentially gain from it would not do much to offset the shortfall, so it just doesn't seem worth it. I also don't think that people who don't want to park down there currently have alternative means of transit to get there.
- I am against # 2. The lakefront should remain open and free for all to enjoy.
- I choose Lakefront Meters
- Lakefront meters are going to hurt people of color disproportionately. This option must be a joke, right?
- The lake is one of the places I go that really benefits my mental health. Being by the water helps me stay sane. I see families and kids using the lake for the same purpose. People of color like myself need to have as much access to the lake as possible. Meters would hinder them.
- I don't like the parking meters at the lakefront. Now families come and enjoy the lakefront for free. They help us with taxes and expenditures. If we have to base everything on making us pay then we become a dull boy/girl. The lakefront is our centerpiece. People can be comfortable and sit and enjoy – make them pay? No! We will create a dead island. (S2)
- The parking at the lakefront for one dollar an hour is not good thinking. I don't think everything should cost money – give us something free! I am concerned about people from other municipalities making plans for our people here. I don't go into your house to tell you how to run your house, so stay out of mine! (S2)
- Parking meters would increase the segregation and racial disparities. This is an intentional way to maintain or increase segregation. Is this intentional by the County Executive?
- No meters by the lakefront.
- No parking meters on lake drive. People without a dollar can't park and enjoy. There is waste everywhere. 4-5 people standing around [sheriff's conversing, not working].

- Parking meter—how do they bring revenue? Tickets? That's why the police hang around. How about a small highway toll—like in IL—maybe not so much—our roads need to be repaired too. People coming from other states use our roads; they can help defray costs of maintenance.
- Worst is having parking meters on lakefront as taxation and revenue—I have a son who does planning and he said the purpose of parking meters is to regulate physical amount of cars but not to raise income; it sounds like they're doing this for ulterior motives.
- Worst is the parking meters at the lake. Expected to generate 1.5 million; how many more sheriff deputies will have to be needed for parking enforcement? Bus routes? They haven't factored in this so I'm not sure if this is going to work. 30 million for sheriff's department for 20 years sheriff deputies have worked overtime. That 30 million is not just going to be used to pay for sheriff staffing.
- Parking meters at the lakefront is worst option. This area belongs to all of us. I'm seeing more diversity in the area and we need to provide access to waterways for people of color. We want to make Milwaukee a "water city" so need to make it for all. Are people really going to plug meters to see fireworks? Parking meters will drive people into neighborhoods to park. An alternative would be to make sure non-county residents pay their fair share.
- I oppose meters at the lake.
- No parking meters, I think this idea will create more unnecessary bureaucracy.
- I strongly oppose the idea of putting meters at the lake. The lake is the crown jewel of the city. The lake defines the personality of Milwaukee.
- I disagree with parking meters at the lake.
- I am absolutely against the parking meters. It would cost money to run them. After listening the introduction, the other options just seem much more viable.
- Charging for the parking at the lakefront is like paying for looking at the sky.
- Downtown employees are occupying lake parking during the day.
- Parking meters: Who parks at the Lake Front other than those who go to enjoy?
- Parking meters would keep Low and Fixed Income residents of Milwaukee away.
- Who parks at the lake front other than those who go to enjoy?

Property Tax:

- Property tax. I remember 2008 economic crash. Property values were inflated 20% every year.
- Raising property taxes would hurt people on fixed incomes.
- I don't think we should raise property taxes, especially if it impacts corporations. Corporations already don't want to locate here because the tax rates are too high.
- Everyone keeps saying that "rich people can afford it." Rich people are not a bottomless pit of wealth. Also, if you increase property taxes, that gets passed down to renters. I understand reasons that people may say rich people should pay, but it's a tough economy. We should be asking how an action would affect the community and me. It's superficial to say that rich people, or the people with golf clubs, can afford it.
- Real estate this is my least favorite. In 2008 we had the real estate bust the real estate property with over inflated that increase taxes. Most people who own property found themselves in an upside down financial situation with their properties situation.

- I would be completely against any new taxes. We have enough taxes already. We already tax owning a vehicle enough.
- I cannot support increasing property taxes. I think our property taxes have doubled since I've moved here. I could support any other one except for that one.
- I would have a hard time supporting a property tax increase. I also want to say that I have experience with budgets. I think if you go through a budget with a fine-toothed comb, you can find ways to save money everywhere you look. I hope the county has good budget people who can save us from making decisions on the choices we have now.
- Option 1 because our property values are going down but our costs are going up. Things feel beyond my control.
- Was confused about the presentation under property tax because the way he presented it he was not talking about increasing the rate of property tax. He was talking about increasing the base. I don't know why taxing new construction is considered raising the property tax.
- The worst is the property tax increase. How does it happen that my property values goes down but my taxes go up? For folks like us, trying to get help we get either you're too this or too that to get help. We get the answer: We can't help you because you make too much money. You don't fit our guidelines, so you don't qualify. If we had the money our house would be sharp. I have learned so many things about fixing up my house from YouTube –especially plumbing. I didn't have a father to teach me. I have spend days and days – don't know how many – just trying to improve my house. The money they spend on roads offsets other stuff. They take taxes from land and use it for roads. We could reuse stuff for roads. Other places reuse stuff not raise taxes. They have had success elsewhere reusing tires for roads. They are free! Things can't keep going up. We have to take care of our child. My mother-in-law retired but had to go back to work to keep her home and we are helping her. Something's got to change and give. I will help. Give me a job. I'll do whatever it takes. We have been trying to get speed bumps put on our street. People drive 55 miles an hour. Someone hit our tree. Without the tree they would have hit the house. I want to feel safe with my son in the yard. I want to feel safe working in my yard.
- I was raised on loopholes. I want to close the loopholes on property taxes.
- Find out who is not paying taxes on the value of their homes. Charge those not paying fairly.
- A modest increase in property taxes is the least restrictive.
- The property tax increase is the worst choice. The people sitting here in this group don't mind but there are many who can't afford it. Some don't even get \$2000/month and can't afford safety basics in their homes like grab bars. I base my opinions on them - not me.
- I would agree to a small increase in property tax.
- I would not support #1. Raising taxes changes our communities. People losing their jobs and can't pay their taxes allows the neighborhood to depreciate. Too many people living outside county and coming to work here but not spending money here.
- I am against #1. Property taxes paid by those who live in community but I can't enjoy all the new restaurants and venues that keep popping up in Walkers Point. I don't think that is fair, "I can't enjoy my neighborhood."

Increase bus fares for all users:

- Number 5 – increasing bus fares for all users. Most people take the bus because they have no other option.
- I would say no to number 5 – bus fares, for reasons already mentioned – most folks are on the bus because they don't have alternatives. Buses get expensive quickly.
- No to increasing bus fare. People really need buses if they don't have a car.
- I would not support an increase in bus fares for all users – especially when you leave on the table the free rides for seniors and people with disabilities with the Go Pass. I think increasing bus fares for all would likely fall on those who are low-income, able-bodied people who are not seniors who really depend on the transit system for their livelihoods and subsidizing the rides for people who may not need it to a great extent.
- On number 5 a firm no. We have no bus that goes to lakefront or Bradford Beach. I would need to know the tax on the poor.
- I would not support #5.
- I do not support #5 increase in fares. I'd like to see more mass transit because where I live and ride my bike on K.K. is congested and dangerous with all the cars. We need more beautiful bike trails and mass transit for environment.
- I am against #5. Alternative would be property taxes or vehicle registration fees.
- The fares should not be increased and the transit system should be expanded in certain areas around town.
- I would be interested in seeing if the budget planners could look across the country at similarly sized markets with similar average income to see what the bus fares are. If we're already on the higher-end, then maybe we could avoid raising general fares.
- Number 5: increase in fees for all users. In Milwaukee, people take the bus because they cannot afford a car. People with greater financial need are already strapped. For that reason the county has a responsibility to not increase that cost for those in need. Bus transportation largely gets people to work and school. This meeting has helped me realize how little I know about revenue sources and expenditures. Everyone should become more educated on expenditures, and learn more to reduce spending or increase revenue.
- Increase in bus fares and reducing routes—forget about a huge budget.
- Worst is increase in bus fare—that's especially true if there's no increase of income for elderly and disabled. There would be disparity and people who are paying will get angry and think they're paying for people to ride for free—1/2 fare is the answer.
- Worst is raising the bus fare—low-income people can't afford it and those who can't afford it will start to drive cars—there's already too much congestion.
- I would not support adjusting bus fares. I don't really like any of the options provided, but I especially do not like the idea of raising fares for those who rely on the bus for their daily needs.
- I would not support increasing the general fare. I would suggest increasing fares only for the special events as an alternative. Another alternative would be increasing fares for more profitable routes.
- I say no to the increase in the bus fares because it would make riding buses even less attractive for average citizens.

- Increasing 25 cents a bus fare is a 10% increase. Who has a job that offers raises of 10%? Most people are lucky if they get a raise of 1% or 2%.
- I am in strong opposition to meters at the lake. It will change the experience of going to the lake if I have to keep checking the time and feeding the meter.
- What would happen if fares stayed the same? How do we know the affect it would have on the transit system?

Subcategory: Go Pass

- The electronic bus pass is nice but hasn't been rolled out well. It makes it harder for youth services to distribute bus passes when needed. There are disposable passes but they are only available at 17th & Fond du Lac. Most people who work with youth are not aware of the disposable passes. The County has not done a good job educating people about the new passes.
- I am hearing that there might be fraud going on with the Go Pass, which might be inflating the deficit. Let's work on the problem of fraud before cancelling the program.
- I'm against the Go Pass Increase
- I choose the Go Pass
- Increasing bus fares/Go Pass rates is worst option. I can see this would be an administrative nightmare but these fares should be based on income and we should help fund that.
- I would suggest the county look for waste and fraud within the go pass program.
- I think the go pass program should be needs based.
- I agree with needs based bus fares.
- On #6 a firm no. Transportation is a part of my wellness. The Go Pass is needed in Milwaukee.

Adjusting Fares for Seniors:

- I do not support increasing bus fares for seniors and the disabled. Their lives are already shitty enough without us adding this. We have other options.
- Adjusting fares for seniors is the worst idea.
- Adjusting fares for seniors is the least appealing idea.
- Adjusting fares for seniors is the worst.
- Bus fares shouldn't be added for the elderly and disabled. It would limit their lives.
- Option 5 & 6. I work with a non-profit who helps mentally ill - many on SSI. The Go Pass helps these folks. Maybe it could be modified with an income limit? Many seniors have incomes - do they need this pass? I assume decreased ridership was factored into these projections - feels like we're being nicked and dined.
- The worst is bus fares for seniors and persons with disabilities. These people especially have issues with affording transit – and they can't drive. I think of my grandmother. I want her to be able to travel using less money. And working people need the transit to travel to work. All that cost adds up to make it hard for them.
- The senior citizens and the disabled have limited money. Adding more will not be good. I am a senior citizen but I can afford higher costs and others cannot.
- We need a means based test for transit fees. Not everyone who is 65 needs to have assistance. Do you deserve to get a free service?

- I do not want seniors and persons with disabilities to have to pay.
- Don't charge the elderly and disabled.
- I am completely against increasing fares for persons with disabilities.
- Number 6: those are the people who can least afford to shell out more money from their pockets.
- I would not support increasing bus fares for seniors and those with disabilities. I think those services should remain free because those populations are often in need or completely dependent on public transit.
- I disagree with option number six.
- I feel that elderly would be negatively affected if prices went up. Medicare does not support bus fares. Our county would be effectively putting our elderly in a prison if it makes our senior citizens pay for the bus.
- I am totally against the increase in bus fares for the elderly, workers, students...
- I'm against the options five and six. What kind of society do we have that puts the onus on those who are most in need? A lot of people who ride the bus are low-income. Seniors and those with disabilities need the support of their societies and should be protected from increased charges.
- I completely oppose option six, adjusting fares for individuals with disabilities and senior citizens, because they are the most unprotected part of our society.
- I am against charging seniors bus fair. I am on a fixed income. The Go Pass has made it possible for me to attend the senior center regularly.
- I definitely would not support #5 increase in fares neither #6. I live and ride the bus to my medical appointments and the bus has played a positive way in keeping me from being depressed and feeling stuck with nowhere to go and nothing to do. We need more mass transit.

Vehicle Registration Fee:

- The vehicle registration fee increase is the least appealing idea.
- I don't think vehicle registration fees should be increased any more than \$20 because they aren't differentiated by financial need.
- I'm against the vehicle registration tax
- I am against Vehicle Registration
- Charge more expensive vehicles a higher registration fee, not the average Joe buying a lesser vehicle. Trolleys would tear up the streets [so that's an expense we should not consider].
- These choices are restricted but #6 is the worst. I'm advocating for the poor who can't afford increases in most of these things. We need to look at the staffing budget - there's so much fluff and fiscal irresponsibility. The VHD/DHHS newsletter contract was stupid and wasted money.
- I am definitely against #3 Vehicle Registration increase and #1 raising of Property taxes.

Increasing Fees for Amenities:

- Raise fees for services: Milwaukee County is losing golfers because of the fees. They need to be competitive so complete with the golf courses in nearby counties.
- I'm against taxes on services
- I would not support the raising of fees for County Parks and Recreation unless there was a caveat that it was based upon volume.

- Also, people who use the lakefront can't afford fees.
- I would be willing to pay more park fees for the amenities I enjoy.
- Increasing fees at Golf Courses and increase in fees we already have for space rental and usage.

Misc:

- It's so difficult to choose just one!
- I would rather us find other ways of filling the gap. This information is too vague so it limits how I can respond.
- I need to know more about the implementation.
- I am against all of them that are proposed here. Keep taking from the same people who are already stretching their monies to survive. I wish we would cast the net wider and bring in new money from new reasonable sources that have not already been increased over the years.
- I do not believe the five points are fair to people. There should be away to fund these things without hurting people.
- Increases for the Sheriff's Department
- It's a good list, it's a start. They (County Execs) at least tried to aid what we're trying to do (close budget gap to fund County services). I'm trying to put myself in other people's shoes, but I don't see anything here (on the list of options) that's unattainable. There aren't any on there (the list of options) that we couldn't do.
- When I look at the revenue ideas, none are really that objectionable. I'd like to see a better way of having the money spent.
- My perspective is I have to vote on this and give thought to budgeting a penny for a dollar. There are too many pennies needed.
- State government imposes a lot with their requirements.
- Revenues are limited that can be collected.
- We need support for the permanently homeless. The HUD definitely is inadequate. We need to offer services to all homeless. We need aid vouchers. We need every aldermanic district to have a shelter, for the homeless, for the mentally challenged. That way it is not a NIMBY issue. It is in everyone's back yard!
- We need basic services not mega sports centers.
- Ideally take a little of each one. I'm for everyone paying their fair share and for people driving they should pay for vehicle registration—those who own homes should pay for property taxes, etc. But I think when they laid out which would bring most revenue vehicle registration may be best. It's a one-time shot—it's not like it goes up every month. Parking meters...it's ridiculous to have to pay to enjoy the lakefront! All areas could stand a *small* increase then you wouldn't hurt people in just one area.
- My biggest concern about Metropolitan Milwaukee is income disparity and the priorities. I don't like false choices given here. Increase in property taxes—why couldn't you increase one by ½ percent and others by the same?
- Difficult to say which is my 1st choice? I support an increase for certain amenities; a number of things can be done than 2nd choice.

- I don't agree with any of the options. I would like County Execs to be in our shoes when they talk about cuts or fee increases. We need compassion in the decision-making. They should try riding the vans. Everything's not always about the almighty dollar.
- I don't like any of the choices. This narrows our options. This doesn't represent the whole process. There's not enough detail and information about how expenditures are made. We need to look at other options. Don't hire more employees - programs for disabled at County facilities are down but employee numbers are up.
- I do not agree with any of the option given to increase county revenue.

Alternative Revenue Sources

- One of the things that is not listed that's very important is the office of African American Affairs. I believe an effective efficient office which is something new could properly eliminate some of the problem, if it was done effectively. It could affect the prison population, if done right. If you had an effective dialogue concerning race, youth, and crime and was able to tie them all together. I think it would minimize the needs and cost for some of the other services that we are having problems with and could be very effective in budget management for the County.
- The County did not mention the African American Affairs office which could be doing something about race and violence and benefit youth programs. More funds here could minimize costs of other services.
- If marijuana was legalized we could impose a tax on that and generate funds for the budget. Colorado funds their schools with their tax.
- Create an "Endowment"
- The county told the volleyball purveyors, "You clean the lakefront." That's a savings right there on a cleaning bill the city doesn't have to pay.
- Tax the rich... fairly.
- Does having a Universal Health Care system impact the benefits the county has to pay to retired workers?
- Miami-Dade County in Florida worked with their local chamber of commerce to do a cost-benefit analysis of having (fully funded, excellent) parks and services. The local chamber used its lobby members to advocate for county services funding. The chief judge from Dade County just came to Marquette to talk about this.
- There are more effective and fiscally responsible ways to do behavioral health (in our county). The Comprehensive Community Services grant uses federal dollars to provide (behavioral) services. The county should be taking full advantage of that (funding source); it would take the burden off (local dollars).
- Even the media uses our airwaves for so little a price. We could charge more and balance the budget with those funds. Corporations use government built roads. We can charge more for their use.
- County should put out a "wish list." I am involved with the Master Gardeners with the Extension. Lots of people don't have transport to doctor's appointments. We could help - we need more volunteer opportunities.

- I think a sales tax is a good alternative. I also think we should sell lottery tickets for the county. I would buy one.
- Would a beer/alcohol tax work to garner more revenue?
- My ideas for endowments for Senior Centers means people could make a gift in their name and get a plaque placed where they would like to be remembered. There could be levels of gifting, like gold, silver, etc. Funds could be used for things like benches at Wehr Nature Center or even to pay staff and to refurbish Senior Centers. There could be funding for bird feeding stations. There could be plaques with a history of a location – donated in memory of...
- Instead of parking meters by the lake, the amount charged for using boat slips should be increased.
- I want to know: when they cut the county board to part time, the salaries were cut in half. What happened to that money?
- An alternative to a vehicle registration fee would be increasing all fares for buses. If people are using them, then they can pay more for that service.
- An alternative would be looking at benefits for County retirees. Where does that revenue come from and is there a potential for \$ investments to help offset that loss?
- I would use # 3 as an alternation vehicle registration.
- I hear there's lots of money in the medical world - fraud and Medicare and County employees. Are there numbers that say we could get money back? What about changing pension fund to a 401k?
- Interest is low right now - wouldn't it be a good time to issue muni bonds and borrow a lot of money to fix roads, etc.?
- The alternative of just raising premium fares is a good one. Especially the festival ones like for Summer Fest. So many people come from all over and if they can afford to go they can afford a larger fare.
- Corporations don't pay enough taxes. They don't pay like ordinary people. They need to pay for the services they get from our city and county.
- We need to get our corporations involved. They are using the land resources. They need to give back, even books for classrooms, and money for the "school supplies" and school fees. Parents have too many expenses already. The people with money are where we need to look for the money we need.
- Let's look at putting smaller buses on the road with less traveled routes. I see so many buses with hardly anyone on them, and sometimes they're empty. Is it necessary to have so many buses all the time? The mayor wants a trolley car. That's an idiot idea of the new generation.
- {Adjusting} Bus sizes [in accordance with route usage] is a great idea. Find money from other sources. I know someone who has gutted his property to devalue it for tax reasons. He has all of the materials kept elsewhere, and will put the house back together when home values increase again. Find out how many more landlords are doing that. I don't see that we need more sheriff activity.
- I think the county should continue funding UW's Extension S.E.W. program. It has had a positive impact on the lives of many Milwaukee County residents.
- I think a better partnership with the private sector would help fill some of the county \$56 million dollar budget gap. (Example: sponsorship of the volleyball nets)

- Retiree health benefits that we're required to provide is what needs help. They need to decrease healthcare costs.
- I worry about pension system and can he pay. I don't advise the County Executive but the way they do things...
- I would lobby to increase the sales tax.
- Bring back and increase sales tax as time Governor Doyle vetoed.
- Using the option to go to State Legislation to raise County Sales Tax. Sales Tax can be progressive. People come from out of town to use our venues. Put some high End stores downtown.
- Maybe raising fees for Powerball but that's not going to happen.
- Lawn mowing on the median strips—having more than one maintenance crew there's no need for another crew to come and waste money. The Sheriff's department is out of control and this is easy to solve.
- Second option of controlling health care costs—I'm not aware of County doing the same thing as the City. They better get a handle on cost of employee health care.
- Focus needs to be on the waste the County takes part in—municipal and court system; a lot of people walking around with their hands in their pockets.
- I'd like to see free or reduced entry costs at festivals or State Fair.
- We need tolls on I43 to help pay for roads. SE WI could pay for some of this as a region rather than just Mil county. They share use anyway - Ozaukee, Waukesha, etc.
- Park fees and amenities should be tax levy supported. We should recalibrate fees and taxes.
- A tax won't help the people I advocate for. A more progressive way could be to establish independent fundraising and use this money for what we want. I'd be happy to donate to things I support.
- Abele has friends in high places and he should lobby for an increase in our sales tax that goes to public transit and parks. I believe that this increase would generate 65 millions. Abele should work to convince the state of Wisconsin to allow communities to create their own sales tax.
- My alternative is to cut public spending.
- Additionally, we should not allow business to dictate policies as they have been doing for years. We need our politicians to fight for individuals.
- I want my officers to live in Milwaukee. If they do not, how are they going to understand policies if their kids are not affected by them?
- Each of these points will hurt people who make less money. Things like Golfing and other amenities can be raised. Outsourcing of staff the County could save money. Inmates are working at Zoo and Parks during construction for time served. Cross training and prioritizing is a small piece of the pie. Public employment keeps money in the community.
- The County should go to the State to raise sales tax where it doesn't affect people who cannot afford it.
- I advocate for fighting state imposed restrictions on our revenue streams.
- Perhaps the county can add a few more permanent structures for potential revenue streams.

Subcategory: People who don't live in MKE paying for services

- I think we should figure out how to tax "Waukesha Wendy" for coming to work in Milwaukee County, but not paying for the road
- I think, if a person does not live in the county, their labor should be taxed for the county services they use. (This idea is done in St. Louis, according to participant A.)
- I think Brookfield and Waukesha residence should pay a tax for working in the county
- I want that people that make six figures working for the county live in the county. When we needed a new arena, we got new taxes, but I feel that when we need funds for the services that poor people use, there are insurmountable amount of difficulties.
- I like the (idea of a) sales tax. People from other counties would have to pay to use our system. It's more of a regional approach (to the budget gap problem). It's not a panacea, but people have supported it (through previous elections). It's a valid option. How else do you get other people to pay?
- I also think we should tax employees who work inside of the county, but live outside county lines.
- I think taxing employees who live outside of the county is a bad idea, because this tax will be a deterrent for employers.

Subcategory: Estabrook dam as an alternative

- I suggest not spending money on Estabrook Dam project—it's a waste of money. If so-called home owners want to change this let them pay for it themselves instead of it affecting the system for many more people—and the way it was passed by the County Board stinks to high heaven.
- These are false choices and the Estabrook Dam project is taking money out of the park system.
- Instead, they should tear down the Estabrook Park dam, because that would save money, including untold legal expenses from lawsuits.
- Removing the Estabrook dam would be a source of money – it doesn't always have to be a new revenue source. Also, there could be less borrowing. The county spends millions paying back debt. Reducing the debt taken on would reduce costs, though this is easier said than done.

Subcategory: Cutting Sheriff's Department

- City employees are prompt, courteous. I'm pleased with services I've received directly. They can cut the sheriff's department by 50%.
- Sheriff Clarke requires his staff to do double shifts—I don't know where it's going but it's not well spent. We pay a great deal of money for sheriff department.
- I would suggest as an alternative in funding to lay off 50% of the sheriff's deputies, one third of public defendants, close public buildings or reuse them.
- I think Sherriff Clarke is only asking for more deputies for political theater. This grand standing should not be tolerated.

What did you find most beneficial about this experience/format?

Being Heard/Given a Voice/Deep Listening

- I was surprised to find that ordinary members of the community could discuss budget issues with great enthusiasm.
- All participants had a voice
- Being able to engage in a format that brings different voices together in productive dialogue. I feel like my voice has been heard.
- Everyone was heard - everyone had a voice learned to others, their needs their passions & how they rely on county for day-to-day basic needs.
- Being able to express my thoughts.
- Being heard. It was fantastic to be able to express my point of view. It was also helpful to hear others points of view and reasons therefore. I need to learn & participate more: I would like to cut some of the budget rather than collect more revenue.
- Very good dialogue; good to have County representatives in group it felt like you were heard
- Hearing from others in the community; hearing from county board member; hearing from county employees
- Respectful. Encouraging of deep listening.
- Participants really listened to one another.
- It gave us a chance for everyone to be heard
- I didn't have to listen to everyone's crazy comments. I felt I could be heard better on the budget.
- It gives you a chance to have a dialogue with each individual. Interesting process of how people think.
- More thorough opportunity to share. More time to share on a wider variety of topics.
- The ability to hear others and respond.
- Hearing from other county residents
- Collegial conversation among citizens about county issues
- I was able to express some of my concerns; not all.
- Ability to speak my mind

Exposure to a Diversity of Viewpoints/Experiences

- Cross - section / diversity of people and concerns and solutions. Everything about city government is interconnected.
- More talk time to hear other concerns and reasons and the pros & cons to your own thoughts
- I discovered that most of us in my group feel the same way about increasing property taxes to invest in quality of life essentials for all of us. People from different walks of life can have a good conversation with each other. And they care about quality of life issues.
- It gave everyone a chance to voice their opinions very open, diverse & inclusive
- Opportunity to hear everyone's viewpoint, agree or disagree
- Meeting neighbors
- Variety of input
- Exchanging ideas with others and hearing new perspectives.

- Meeting neighbors. Seeing - listening to what others are passionate about.
- The chance to interact with fellow community activists.
- Talking to staff & other citizens
- We had ideas - maybe some will be implemented
- Getting to hear different viewpoints. Interactive conversations with the opportunity to change your mind.
- Changing opinion after listening to others.
- What thinking, interesting people! A lot of knowledge to plug into
- The sharing of experiences and information regarding distribution of service and fees

Positive Experiences of the Dialogue Method/Facilitation

- It was great! Thank you. Encouraged me to participate more in the future!
- I liked the format because we all got to speak & I actually learned from the other people's comments. Great format.
- Speaking more comfortably w/ an intimate group vs. Being afraid to speak at a microphone in front of a big group
- Opportunity for scores of comments to be recorded. Encouragement of I-statements/personal experiences rather than generalizations
- Great format - people thought this was good, everyone heard, felt comfortable. Loved it.
- Facilitation of small groups was very effective. Good job Heidi.
- There was an opportunity to share my thoughts without being interrupted & to know I had enough time to share. It was also nice to have a more conversational setting to discuss what are some very changed topics. The facilitators did an excellent job steering people back on track.
- The dialogue
- Excellent process & think together respectfully
- Facilitator was excellent
- The opportunity to have safe conversations
- The facilitator did a good job! I liked the opportunity to talk about issues that weren't in the discussion group questions.
- Good discussion. Enlightening
- The group discussion and facilitators
- Having the group discussions, having people listen
- I did like the group discussions
- Guided conversations
- I found the idea of a facilitated group setting very beneficial. It gave me the opportunity to listen to the people in my group share their ideas and experience. Our facilitator Cathy was excellent.
- I like the format-more private 3 min time was good
- Interactive conversations.
- Provides a moment to think quietly before answering a question (better for introverts)
- Keep up the good work!
- Saved a lot of time. Kept the strife-mongers away.

- The structured nature of the conversations.
- The format was interesting and I like that all the comments will be recorded and compiled. It was positive to have county staff participate.
- That the conversation was open and positive
- Found it helpful
- I really enjoyed listening and discussing the budget with structured conversation.
- This allowed us to understand the persons being affected.
- I found we basically felt the same way on each question.
- I felt this was a better way of discussion.
- I almost left when I found out about this new format but am glad I stayed - I felt like someone listened
- This is the first time I've attended anything like this. You guys made me think of things I wouldn't have otherwise thought of. Some of these ideas are a bad way to balance the budget.
- A tip of the hat to Mr. Abele for using this approach. The facilitating works - gives us an opportunity to speak uninterrupted and we go beyond our own agendas. It's good to have a listener. We need to revamp Estabrook dam discussion. I love our city.
- This is a neat group of people. We shouldn't go home yet.
- I loved the structure of these listening circles. I changed my mind as I listened to everyone talk. I learned a lot.
- The format allows people to share and keeps angry people from taking over the conversation.
- This is a first-line forum to interact with our officials. This format of conversation dictates what we should talk about instead of allowing us to express what is important to us.
- The fact that these meetings do not provide childcare make them not welcoming for families.
- The Zeidler team did a great job—it was a much more meaningful conversation than what we've experienced in the past.
- I really enjoyed listening and discussing the budget with structured conversation.
- This allowed us to understand the persons being affected.
- I found we needed more information on each of the 6 suggested areas.
- I felt this was not a better way of discussion.
- I didn't like that the County Executive was absent and if he had been here we would not have had the opportunity to ask him any questions.
- The groups should have been larger.
- It was good being able to ask County Workers some questions.

Feedback on the Questions/Presentation

- I like the questions, providing people with the understanding that awesome things are never free.
- I liked the survey questions.
- Informative
- The briefing from Steve was informative.
- The printed slides w/group discussion
- I never paid much attention to these details except what was published in media. The near term and near decade outlook are draconian. It's about the board making good choices - avoid pork

projects.

- I gained a better understanding of the country budget process
- Informing the community on where the money comes from & goes to.
- I would have found it better to have had a more extensive break down of what true expenses for the county are versus just say we're not cutting anything.
- More color contrast in charts would be appreciated
- Having time for questions would be good.
- The questions limit the responses.
- [I gained] an appreciation of just what the budget allotments by "unit" and revenue stream.

Suggestions/Critical Feedback

- Reinforced the fact that neither Abele or the board gives a damn of what the people think or want [from 2nd session]
- This process allows the County Exec to avoid physically hearing our voices, sharing our experience in this room, and looking into our eyes when we talk about our passion for our community.
- Please see if some of the suggestions can be implemented.
- Perhaps some people who would not be comfortable talking to a large group felt more comfortable to talk in this format, but the trade off was too significant.
- Not much
- I would like to see meeting with more public discussion
- It would be beneficial to have more of these sessions - 2 aren't enough. Still useful to have traditional listening sessions with the County Exec. Community members appreciate the chance for dialogue directly with the Exec.
- Provide the pros as well as the cons to each option. (Main ones impact). Less restrictions/structure, flexibility would be appreciated; larger groups & choice of where to go
- Hearing more from neighbors in more personal format is nice but this should not replace formal budget hearings. Supervisors vote on this budget & I only see one of them here. That's concerning also since board tends to disagree w/County Exec on principle on everything. How do we get past the dysfunction? Compartmentalizing public input is not the solution.
- Very frustrating.

Participation and Collaboration

- Liked that is pure personal in the position of having to think about how the country has to work through opinions rather than just speaking our own on a single issue
- Everybody got to participate hearing directly from a County Director [1st session]
- The collaboration amongst presenters, representatives, and participants
- [Understanding County challenges is] not the point of this event anyway!!!!
- It gives me a better understanding of how Chris Abele is diverting his responsibilities to the people!
- The participation of the group, sharing ideas with positive collaboration.

What other comments would you like to leave for the County Executive?

County Executive/Board/Employees

- Dear County executive, you @#\$%! It would be nice if for ONCE you showed some respect to all of us who take time to come to these meetings, but you ALWAYS FIND AN EXCUSE to skip them! You find another convenient way to pass the buck onto someone else. [2nd session]
- I believe the County Board of supervisors should be present. [2nd session]
- It would have been nice if Abele would have been present. [2nd session]
- Save money by eliminating the county board, raze the courthouse, turn the land into a parking lot, and charge fees to raise money. They should all be fired for not caring enough to show up don't charge for parking at the lakefront, whatever happened to public access to the lakefront why north shore and not south shore need diversity in country executive's office on the cabinet level [2nd session]
- Our elected officials need to be here to hear what we have to say. They have to let us talk about what is important to us, not expect us to help give them cover to make difficult decisions. We had to spend time away from our families - why do they not have to do the same? [2nd session]
- That he shows up for his forum. [2nd session]
- Where were you? I feel like you only spoke about what you wanted. What about Jobs!!
- People really wanted you here. [2nd session]
- I would like to ask the Co. Exec. to give the employees a raise and to adjust the pay ranges to reflect comparable salaries!
- Increase staff pay and keep retirement for county workers!
- Decrease administrative salaries
- How about cutting # county employees, their salaries and some of the fluff!
- As an accountant, I know dealing with a budget gap is not easy, but thank you for all you do & your commitment to the Milwaukee Community.
- Send another supervisor in this place because of concerned taxpayers [2nd session]
- You have a very difficult job. I don't always agree, but remain supportive of your ability to be an effective manager. You don't hear it enough- thank you.

Fiscal Management/Responsibility

- Manage expenses!
- Do not like being presented with a list of false choices!
- Did not like set of "false choices"
- Say no to \$30 million shared budget increase. I brought this up in the group and not one person thinks it's a good expenditure. Give a minimal increase or no increase. Other ways to balance the budget/cut spending were brought up (like the trolley, or use smaller buses on sparse routes); I don't think we need more charges to make the budget work.
- The State continues to limit the County but expects it to function at a high level. Reminds me of the Hebrews in the Old Testament. Taking more & more away but expecting same or better results. We need to get our equitable share of our taxes &

fees back & not just acquiesce by adding more & more to a monster that knows what it's doing

- To give the public a better account of balancing the budget. Everyone deserves quality of life - better quality of life.
- We have a beautiful city. All areas of the city need support of the Cty, not just downtown
- Your "no new taxes" platform is a fraud. You took our state matching dollars for the stadium and now you are telling us we have a 50 million \$ deficit. It is time for you to start lobbying with your Republican friends to allow us to have a funding referendum to increase sales taxes up to 1% to pay for parks and transit.
- I already understood the County's challenges. You failed to mention ways we can work to change onerous state limits on how we manage our County Budget.

Property Taxes

- These 6 items are the best you can come up with? While I do not oppose paying more property taxes, I resent that the cost and burden is always on the working class. What are the tax loopholes all of the developers of east side condos have that could share the burden? Live in the city you represent. Also, live in the city
- Do not raise property taxes above building valuations!
- Protect the safety net: mental health, housing, disability services, para transit, Go Pass, are all life sustaining services for so many of our most vulnerable. We will support you on vehicle registration fee and property tax increases. Those are a few dollars a month.
- More transparent with details and serious assessment of properties taxes loopholes
- Close property tax loopholes, not raise all prop. tax.

Vehicle Registration Fee

- Vehicle registration fee = \$50 increase on 2nd + car in household
- Very concerned about further cuts in mass transit and increased fares - strongly support increased registration fees for vehicles.
- Regarding VRF, I like this idea if fee is based on value, make, model of vehicle

Specific Funds

- Please fund the Seed Initiative at current level. Thank you!
- Please leave the IRIS funding in the Budget - no cuts. I need those services so that I can live independently in my own apartment
- Thank you for your support of UW-Extension Master Gardeners - We are a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of the budget, but it makes it possible for us to continue to make a positive impact on the community.
- UWM extension is wonderful. It teaches & helps grow neighborhood & is very agriculturally & aesthetically valuable. Thanks to you for funding Moody Park Gardens.
- Keep the go pass for disabled-maybe a means test for elderly.
- Get rid of Go Pass

Sheriff

- Cut the budget for the sheriff by 50%!
- Do your job and get the sheriff's department under control
- Pull from the sheriff department's funds

Estabrook Dam

- Don't rebuild the Estabrook Dam. I know you have opposed rebuilding it, and I applaud you and the Parks department for your position.
- Take down the Estabrook Dam!
- Thanks for your opposition to repair of the Estabrook Dam.
- Why are we wasting money on the Estabrook Dam? Why are we diverting current, and future resources on something only a couple dozen people want?

Community Outreach/Volunteering

- I would like to volunteer work time to restructure the parking ticket and tour system.
- I would like to know about outreach to the community to learn more about Cty services

Community – General comments

- We need to not penalize those who have the least.
- It takes a village to raise a child. As a village, we are failing our children. Imprisoning children does not make our community safer. Imprisoning children does not help them.
- Love this county and the people in it.
- Ordinary people's budgets are shrinking, but corporations are making more money with less services-an imaginative way should be used to get money from them.
- Please consider Congestion[?] Extension - it connects, educates + supports our community
- Stop commoditizing public spaces!
- Think of ways to look at and find ways to eliminate problems before they reach the crisis of having to go to prison
- Those choices all have a big impact on low income people!
- Toll from other states
- Charge a fee for not living in Milwaukee City but working here.
- Why can't we do what we need to do instead of only looking at taxes and fees?

Mental Illness

- More help for those who suffer from Mental Illness
- So appreciate of county executive's efforts to improve behavioral health services, end homelessness by investing in both emergency housing/shelter and permanent supporting housing.

Pools

- We would like to see the Cannon Park wading pool repaired and restored or a viable alternative installed so that the children of the community and beyond can benefit from

such a lovely space whose playground was recently renovated. Currently the pool sits, empty and unused. As a mother of young children, I love telling other mothers about parks that are well designed for an afternoon of play. I belong to many Facebook groups where other mothers have bemoaned the pool closing and it especially seems odd given the obvious efforts to refresh and renovate the lovely pocket of a park. I urge you strongly to please reopen the Cannon Park pool. It is a vital need for the neighborhood and beyond.

- My child cries himself to sleep because the Cannon Park Pool is closed. If dollars were tears the pool repairs could have been paid for over and over.
- The Cannon Park Pool is a critical part of the functioning of this neighborhood. So many children have benefited from the ability to walk to the park & play. Please do NOT permanently close the pool.
- We would be willing to pay a user fee to ensure that the Cannon Park Pool be repaired and maintained beautifully. This would allow more families to come and swim with children. A user fee for cleaning, repairing, lifeguard is totally reasonable. As a school we would pay a parks fee for our continued use.
- I support increased fees for amenities but not swimming pool fees

Parking

- No! - Parking Meters on Lake Drive or any other Parks!
- Please don't charge for parking at the lakefront